



Friends Newsletter

June 2011

www.greatsouthwestwalk.com
PO Box 192, Portland, 3305

WALKERS' NOTES

This year is the 25TH ANNIVERSARY of the inception of the Walking Group. Instrumental in this has been **Julie Davies** who puts together the walking program each year and is still our Recreation Officer after all these years. Congratulations and thanks to Julie from all of us.

The summer-time twilight walks were an outstanding success with upwards of 40 people attending each walk. This year we had meals at the Bridgewater Kiosk after Blow Holes to Bridgewater Bay; the Stump at Port Fairy after the Mahogany Walk; and the Nelson Pub after the March river walk. We had an extra twilight walk in November 2010 for our end of year break-up at the Nelson Pub.

Julie has enlisted the help of others to lead the walks when she is not available. We have a big contingent of Hamilton walkers and Jenny Kirkwood and Wendy Radley, from this group, have volunteered to lead walks. Robyn and Alan Lewis from Heywood have also put their hands up. Jan Lovell, Rob Bartlett and Heather McIntosh continue to volunteer to lead walks.

There have been two long walks this year. Gordon Page led the annual March walk and an extra walk for the Rotary Club in April. Gwen Bennett still takes bookings for this annual event.



Our April walk, led by Wendy, was from the beautiful Ink Pot to Wild Dog bend and as you can see from the above picture, was wettish. Twenty-two walkers braved these conditions and spirits were high though bodies were damp.

WALKERS' NOTES

The May walk was Lake to Lake (Monibeong to Swan) along Discovery Bay—a challenging walk at any time. Jan led this walk and reported that soft sand had made the 16km walk fairly difficult. It was undertaken by eight hardy souls.



The above picture, taken by Ewen who met them with a hot cuppa at the end, also pictures Julie who drove out to meet them too.

Coming up is the weekend away in June (17-19th), which was to have been in Southend, SA, but due to unforeseen circumstances has now been moved to Rose's Gap in the Grampians. Rob is the contact for this adventure weekend and interested walkers can contact him on 55265372 or 0428381772.

July 16th walk is a loop walk from Tarragal Camp to Mt Richmond. 9.00am start from Customs House. Probably lots of warmth giving food would be the go.

August 13th, again 9.00am start from Customs House, is from the Moleside to Pritchard's camp.

September, October and November are all interesting walks and off the GSWW.

Mt Eccles National Park, which will be led by Jenny; Bessiebelle, Sheepwash and Stones area led by Robyn and Alan interesting historical area—from both Indigenous and early European settlers points of view.

Then our end of year break-up will be a bus trip to Harrow where the locals will guide us around their town. Our lunch will be at the Harrow pub. Walkers will incur the cost of the bus and lunch. Rob will lead this walk and will let the costs be known to people who express interest.

We can drink a toast to a quarter of a century of walking and comradeship thanks to a vision by Sam Bruton and Bill Golding.

GREAT PROGRESS WITH IMPROVEMENTS TO TRACK AND CAMP SITES

The following camp sites have all been furnished with new shelters, tanks, tables and toilets:

- ▶ Cubby's
- ▶ Cobboboonee
- ▶ Tarragal
- ▶ Mallee
- ▶ Cut Out
- ▶ Fitzroy
- ▶ Springs
- ▶ Trewalla

Thanks to Pacific Hydro for funding, Parks Victoria for design and construction and Gunditj Mirring for use of site, we now also have a relocated and brand new Mallee camp at Cape Nelson. With raised tent sites, tank, toilet and a shelter containing table and benches. This camp was officially opened on 7th May 2011 by our Chairman, Alvin Cram.



Others works recently undertaken were the construction of a raised rock causeway at the end of Robertson's Road. Walkers can now proceed in that area without getting their feet wet. See picture below of Frank Coulson and others inspection the finished track.



MORE WORKS NEWS

The new track around the Grant Creek washout has been completed on the Smelter Nature Walk. Pictured below is the new gate in Quarry Road. This part of the track was completed in record time.

Many thanks to the enthusiastic volunteers who undertook this work. They included Graeme Hume, Laurie Benbow, Bill Golding, Gordon Page and others.



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You can Volunteer to Work on the Track

Those who would like to assist with maintenance and construction on the walk can contact the following:

- ▶ Gordon Page 5523 4248
- ▶ Graeme Hume 5523 1927
- ▶ Bill Golding 5523 2636

Maintenance crews work on the track on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday each week. Enjoy a day in the fresh air on the Great South West Walk with some great company!

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Membership

Membership renewal for 2011/12 are being forwarded. We are changing the annual subs renewal so that all subs become due on 1st July each year. Please complete renewal notice and forward as directed. Your contribution is very important to the continuing works on the Great South West Walk. Thank you for your support.

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Council Tourism Grant

Glenelg Shire Council has granted us \$3000 towards the printing of our new trifold information brochure which is due out soon. The brochure will be available free of charge at the Portland Tourist Information Centre and other tourist information centres.

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Website

For up-to-date details of happenings on the Great South West Walk, please refer to our website.