



MerryChristmas, folks! And keep walking...It's good for you..



Sunday, 17 December 2023



# Christmas Breakup

This year's breakup was due to take place in Banjo Patterson Reserve where it has been for several years now but the weather forecast for the day was for lots of rain. During the week it was decided by the executive to cancel or find a new venue.



***Three men + two tinnies***



Anna and Ken kindly offered their place as an alternative venue, so it was decided to accept their offer. The forecast proved correct,

however we could now celebrate a successful year for DVBC without the fear of being washed out.

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Chris Kringle was a matter of passing left to right, right to left and hold, with Bill reading the story with the instructions to be followed.





Everyone sat on a comfortable chair - at a table - for a meal and a good chat, and we ended the year on a real high.

A big thank you to Anna and Ken for saving our end-of-year celebrations from cancellation.

Phil

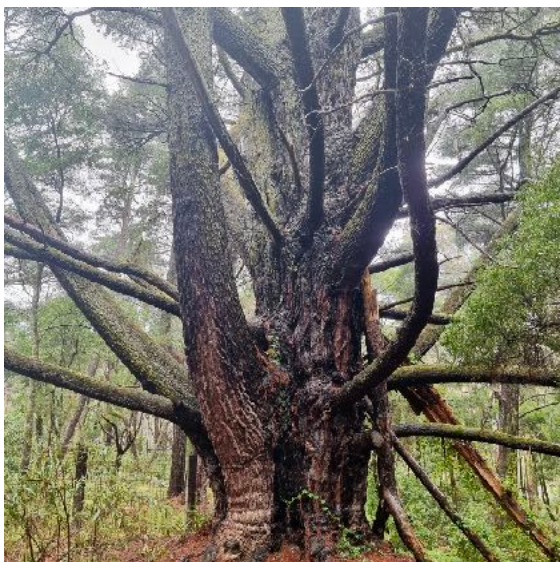
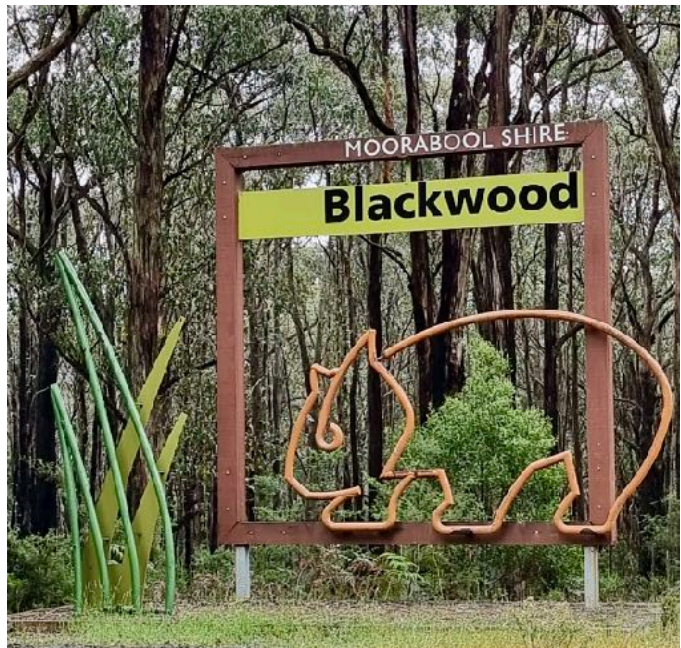


## Lerdergerg River Heritage Walk - Finally completed!



Covid restrictions, windstorm damage and flooding had prevented this walk from going ahead previously. Thankfully, Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> December, 2023, was the day it was destined to go ahead.

Seven walkers decided to make a weekend of it and arranged for accommodation in Blackwood – one couple glamped in style 5 minutes from the walk start, and five of us shared a vintage caravan in the local caravan park. Three other walkers met us at the Jack Cann Reserve on the Sunday morning.



I'd promised the group fine walking weather because I'd behaved myself the week prior, maybe I wasn't such a good girl, because we set off on our 9km circuit with a misty drizzle. The smell of wet messmates, peppermints and undergrowth enhanced the beauty of this track.

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Many birds were heard, we tried to identify them from their calls via our phone apps, however there was a little too much human chatter which prevented



identification 😊 We walked along water races and found a few old mine shafts while meandering through the forest.

This area was extensively mined for gold in the 1860's and, as is the usual case, the remains of the miners hard work is left for animals and humans to utilize or fall into. Although the walk is called the Lerdergerg River Heritage

walk, we only actually see the river in the later part of the track and walk alongside it for a few hundred metres, the majority of the time you are in bushland.

We had morning tea in a clearing off the track, and after 5 minutes of inactivity found that leeches were quietly bedding themselves on exposed body parts. (As Leader, I provided my group with an incredibly effective insect repellent







– The Locals, Sandfly & Mozzie Spray. The leeches dropped off instantly once sprayed with this Eucalyptus & Lavender Oil solution and everyone smelt nice too. Highly recommend this product which is Australian made).

We were walking at a good pace and found

ourselves having to make the decision to either have lunch on the track and then only walk a further 2kms to afternoon tea or have lunch at the wonderful Garden of St Erth Café. The Group voted to eat on the track amongst the beautiful surroundings and have our 2<sup>nd</sup> lunch course at the Café. Good decision/Bad decision. The leeches had warmed up a bit and were voracious, Phil would have had a least 15 gnawing away at his legs.







Up until that point, apart from the leech infestation, it was an uneventful walk. Then Sharon had a tree branch collapse from under her whilst she was climbing over a fallen tree causing her to bruise her back and Phil tripped into a sunken drain gashing the palm of his hand. I'm hoping the lovely scones, jam and

fresh cream at the St Erth Café were a balm for Sharon and Phil's injuries. ☹

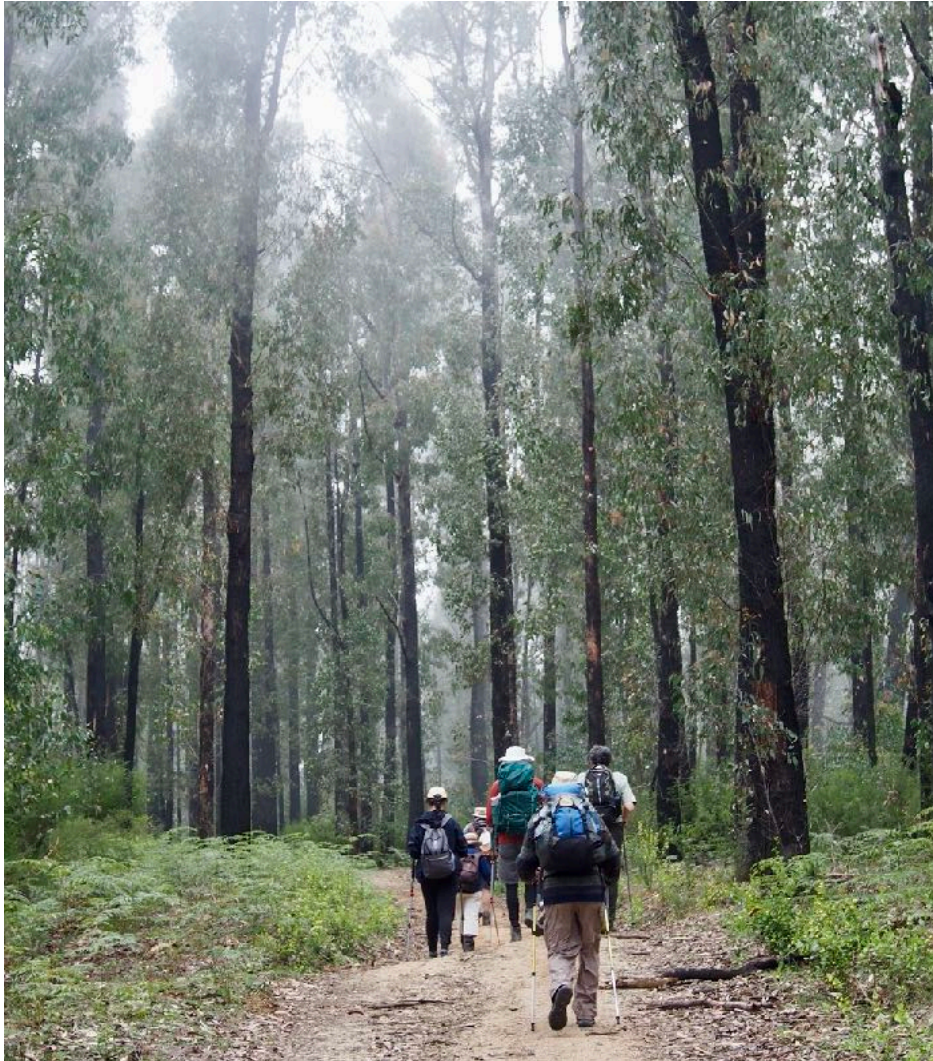


I'll definitely revisit this lovely area, as there are many more walks in the Wombat State Forest and Lerdergerg National Park which would be interesting to do, and having affordable accommodation options certainly makes it a feasible area to visit. Tiz.



LUPTONS TRACK, GUIDE TRACK AND BUTTON GRASS NATURE TRAIL  
BUNYIP STATE PARK  
19<sup>th</sup> November, 2023

On a rather misty morning, 11 walkers including one visitor, met at the



junction of the Tynong Nth Rd and Luptons Track. After a brief car shuffle leaving the cars at the finish of the walk, we set off up the track which follows the ridge line of the Weatherhead Range. First stop was the planned viewing point of the Bunyip State Park mountain ranges to the north, however due to

the low cloud – no view!

So slowly on upwards we went admiring the beautiful wild flowers lining the track as we went. The Rusty Bush Pea (*Pultenea hispidula*) was out in all its glorious orange-yellow-gold.







Also eye catching was the beautiful Blue Dampiera and then swathes of white Prickly Tea-Tree (*Leptospermum continentale*) and many other assorted flowering native plants.

To witness the regeneration of the forest after the devastating bushfire that swept through this area in March 2019 is awesome. The trunks of the Eucalyptus trees that survived stand out, being totally black in contrast to the dense green shrubbery, and created a beautiful sight when the sun came through and illuminated them.



First stop for morning tea was near the junction with Guide Track, after which we continued on for approximately another 2 kms to where Dingo Ridge track takes off towards Mt Towt. Unfortunately this has now been blocked off for public use. A pity, because as some would remember, I used to have a property on Mt Towt and this had been a regular walk for us.

We continued along Lupton Track for another half km before turning around (Overall about 6 kms of continuous uphill!)



and then returned to our morning stop to have lunch.  
From there a short walk to the Guide Track intersection and then downhill.



Seriously downhill as the walkers were to find out.  
Thankfully there hadn't been recent rain as when we walked it weeks earlier, it was almost possible to ski down!  
How Parks ever managed to grade in the first place is a mystery!



Ultimately we made the valley floor to then do the 3 km loop around the Button Grass Walk.

However, 6 of the party decided as we were only a few hundred metres from the cars, to call it a day.

The rest of us walked about 100 metres into the track to discover the patch of button grass. It is recorded that this is one of the rare areas on



the mainland where the Button Grass species grows; and then we discovered it was in flower – we have been there many times but never seen the flower heads instead of buttons. We decided to not complete the loop and headed back to the cars. A very successful

walk in excellent walking weather covering approximately 12 kms.

Julie Kidd



Near the end of the steep bit an enormous stand of Golden Spray (*Viminaria juncea*) was out in full golden colour.

