



**WALKING INTO HISTORY:** Merbein Centenary Committee members Don Fablich and Len Jeffers (front) cool their feet after completing the Merbein history walk in the lead up to the main event on August 19. Picture: Sarah Simmonds

# History floods back on walk

**By Hannah Knight**

MERBEIN will gallop into the past for its centenary celebrations.

Awash with history, Merbein's floodplain will be in the spotlight during a special walk on August 19.

With groups of walkers strolling through he bush land from 8.45am, it will be a unique experience, according to Rebecca Wells.

A member of the Merbein Centenary Committee, Ms Wells said the Merbein Common had a rich history.

"It's a bit of a hidden gem," she said.

"There's been so much happen here over the years."

With a long-history as a recreational area, the first horse race at

the new track on the flood plain was held in 1911.

The area also hosted a range of other sporting events including golf, pistol shooting, rowing and tennis.

With 5km to cover at a leisurely pace, the walk will take about five hours.

The Friends of the Common and the Merbein Centenary Committee have joined forces with various other community groups who will put their local history knowledge to good use, manning the interpretive stations that are part of the walk.

With a huge variety of firsthand facts about the area on offer, topics covered will include: rehabilitation of the flood plain, drainage of the flood plain, his-

tory of old sporting facilities, history of the Merbein Common Association, habitat and birds, cultural heritage and the Blandowski's expedition and camp of 1857.

Ms Wells said participants would be split into groups of 15 people.

"The first group will start the walk at 8.45 and continue every 15 minutes until 10am," she said.

Each group will end their walk by planting a commemorative tree.

The Merbein Centenary will start on Friday, featuring 10 days of celebration and entertainment.

For more information about the centenary visit [www.merbeincentenary.com.au](http://www.merbeincentenary.com.au).