

Princess Margaret Rose Caves Weekend—Celebrate: 2010 9–10 Oct 2010

Walkers: Di P, Helen A, Ian F, John P, Liz H, Lothar S, Mike H

As part of this special Celebrate 2010 week six members from the Warrnambool Walkers took advantage of the weekend and participated in one of the walks with the Seniors Walking Group. Mike, Liz, Ian, Helen, Lothar and Di drove down in cars and met up with the bus from Warrnambool at about midday. Armed with “Walkie Talkie” radios we positioned ourselves strategically along the way for a short walk, some made it to the end of the track but it was an enjoyable stroll for most.

LUNCH followed and this was quite a treat...salads, sliced meats of numerous types dressings, bread, champagne wine and softer things topped off by slice and coffee, and this accentuated the need for we walkers to do something more strenuous in the afternoon. Some of the seniors group went to the Caves after lunch and then back on the bus for the journey back to Warrnambool. We six (ie minus John P) then had a circular walk from the Sinkhole at the Pernambol Conservation Park. We saw quite a few orchids along the track and the bush is looking great, we were a bit perturbed to come across some young unlicensed trail bike riders.

A tasty BBQ on Saturday night was followed by a stay in the cabins at the caves. We then did another walk on Sunday morning which also allowed us to see the giant wombat holes, many more orchids and some magnificent grass trees, and still have time to enjoy lunch and cake for some at the Richmond Henty, Lothar really knows the spots!

Di P



Blowholes to Bridgewater Bay Café: 1 Nov 2010

Walkers: 17 Melbourne Ramblers, Lothar S, Ian F, Linda H (Leader)

To my great delight everyone was ready at 9:00am when I arrived at the YHA Port Fairy. We travelled in convoy to the Kiosk at Bridgewater Bay where we left one car and then drove onto the Blowholes. At the Blowholes the Ramblers had to perform their ritual before every walk. Everyone signs a book and then they stand in a circle and count around, hoping the two numbers are equal.

At the Blowholes the tide was out so the display from the swell was not as good as it could have been. It was certainly great but I have seen it better. The Ramblers were in awe, some of them had not seen anything like it.

At the Petrified Forest everyone found it hard to believe that the structures we were looking at were actually once trees.

During the remainder of the walk the Ramblers were stating that they were reluctant for the walk to stop. They were delighted with the scenery, the smell of the ocean, and the gentle hum from the waves.

The Ramblers certainly walked a lot slower than the Warrnambool Walkers however I found it a delight to actually “Smell the Roses” with them. I think we sometimes put our heads down and forget about where we are and how beautiful it all is.

That evening 24 of us met at the Stump in Port Fairy for what ended up being a hilarious evening. It started when Roy stood up to tell a joke. Well it went from bad to worse, slowly other customers left as the jokes got worse and we were the only people left in the restaurant. Roy ended up singing a joke by which time it was time to go. The food was excellent; the service was quick for such a big table.

I believe new friendships were formed that night and a commitment was made for the Warrnambool Walkers to go to Melbourne for one of their walks in 2011.

Linda H

Cavendish Country Gardens Weekend aka “Lost in the Western District with only chocolate to eat!!”: 6–7 Nov 2010

Walkers: Coralie, Diane D, Linda H, Irene and Sienna

I think I should firstly give you a little background to this weekend. For awhile now my granddaughter, Sienna, has been asking if I would take her camping. A weekend in Cavendish sounded like the answer. Not too far away, a lovely spot by the river and a shop up the road if we got too bored (as all 11 year olds tend to do).

The trip started out quite well. Sienna & I picked Coralie up and we made it to Kirkstall before Sienna asked if we had long to go before we got there!!! Arrival at Cavendish saw us heading straight to the Bunyip Hotel for tea then over to the campground where Diane & Linda had set up. We had a lovely site overlooking the river and far enough away from the resident snake!!

Up early for breakfast and to ready ourselves for waterfalls, arboretums, open gardens, a coffee or two, and of course a couple of chocolates. We headed off through the beautiful countryside towards Coleraine lamenting that we didn't know of any coffee shops in the area. Arrival at Coleraine bought joy with the sight of a lovely little coffee shop with delightful cakes; this was our first stop AFTER the Glenelg Fine Confectionary shop.

Having fortified ourselves for the next part of the journey we headed up the hill to the Peter Francis Points Arboretum which is situated on a hill overlooking the town. There are over 12,000 native plants including over 400 eucalypt species including spotted gum, mallee eucalypts, tall-forest eucalypts, snow gums, lemon-scented gums, woolybutts, acacias, grevilleas, banksias, hakeas, melaleucas, correas, native pines, callistemon, indigenous wildflowers and lots of others. A delightful spot to just sit and listen to the birds or wander along one of the walking tracks.

Our next stop Wannon Falls is east of Coleraine just off the highway. This was a quick photo stop, at a distance, as we needed to be on our way to Nigretta Falls for our picnic lunch. Nigretta Falls tumble over rocky outcrops dropping into a large pool at the base before continuing its journey to the Wannon Falls some 10 km downstream. We



investigated both the base and summit of the falls and then relaxed by playing Frisbee. The aim of the game was to NOT hit Diane's car, Coralie!!!

We now had ahead of us the onerous trip through the wilds of the Western District, without a map or GPS, to find the Wakefield Park Garden. Due to the exceptional navigation skills of our leader we arrived precisely on time at the exact coordinates and met up with Lothar & Chris for, you guessed it, a cuppa and biscuit!! The garden covers 2½ acres and is a mass of shrubs and roses which are set in sweeping green lawns and sheltered by mature English trees. It is a very peaceful garden with many interesting rooms to be discovered. These include a heart shaped anniversary rose garden, a massive wisteria covered colonnade, silver birch walk, a formal rectangular pool edged with roses and conifer hedge, a potager, and an intriguing cubby house.

After a day filled with the beauty and wonder of our surroundings our little band of intrepid walkers headed back to camp for a well earned BBQ and campfire.

Thanks Coralie, Diane, Linda and Sienna for a delightful weekend.

Irene

PS Sienna had a wonderful time and wants to go camping again!!!!



Queenscliff - Sorrento Weekend: 19–21 Nov 2010

Walkers: Sandra D, Di P, Helen A, Coralie G, Marg F and Ken F

This weekend was planned by Sandra and proved to be very successful with excellent weather, walks and food. We arrived at the Queenscliff Big 4 Park where we had a cabin booked and were really impressed with the facilities, indoor heated pool and spa. Coralie and Helen arrived later and were able to set up their tents before dinner.

The walk to Queenscliff and back is about 8 easy kms and we did this in the afternoon and checked out Queenscliff and the Tourist Info. A few wines and nibbles to welcome Coralie and Helen was followed by Sandra's "Spag Bol" and Marg's Cheese cake.....excellent.

We headed off on Saturday to catch the 9 am ferry to Sorrento in beautiful sunshine, and although the dolphins were not visible, the journey is very pleasant. Alighting from the ferry we strolled into Sorrento and had coffee and vanilla slice to die for!! Walked on then to the Sorrento Surf Beach where the coastal track took us through the Mornington Pen Nat Park to the sandy beach of Portsea Surf Beach, along the way were several groups of Hooded Plovers fast tracking along the sand.

Lunch was in shade at the Portsea SLSC and then we headed up and on to London Bridge and then across the peninsula to the Point Nepean Nat Park. This park has recently been reclaimed from the Defence Dept and is still fenced in places as there are unexploded "things there"! There is a new visitor centre where we were able to get some more information on the parks. From here we walked back along a path known as the "millionaires row" and we were able to peek into these beautiful mansions with majestic gates and wonderful gardens.

We walked about 13 kms in all arriving back to the 4pm ferry a little tired but very happy. Dinner was F&C at the local shop and we set ourselves up at the outdoor tables with a fine salad to go with the feast. The owners were amused and I think we were a good advertising mascot!

Sunday breakfast was bacon and eggs followed by a great walk along the shore at Point Lonsdale, coffee and then farewells before lunch as we headed home and Ken and Marg lunched with friends from the other side who had come across on the ferry.....

A great weekend, thanks Sandra.



EOY BBQ at Lake Pertobe: 14 Dec 2010

A jolly time was had by all!

