

Forrest Mountain Bike Trail riding : 2 Apr 2011

Riders: Bill (leader) and Mabel

The hardest part about mountain biking is the ground, followed closely by tree trunks and then the metallic bits of the bike.

The first run we did was Barre Warre from the Yaugher trail head. This was a pleasant warm up and lead us into the more difficult Vista circuit, which had great views through delightful vegetation. Vista had many technical obstacles such as logs, stumps and wildlife. Steep, tight bends with close proximity to trees saw us finish this circuit with jelly legs and moistened brows.

After lunch we zoomed down onto the Tiger rail trail for a spin into Forrest and a quick circuit of the super swoopy Roller Coaster. This was a very fast enjoyable run with no obstacles, an ideal conclusion to a physical day.

A generous harvest of blackberries and then home. Thanks to Mabel for a great day out.

Bill P

Lake Monibeong Circuit: 6 Apr 2011

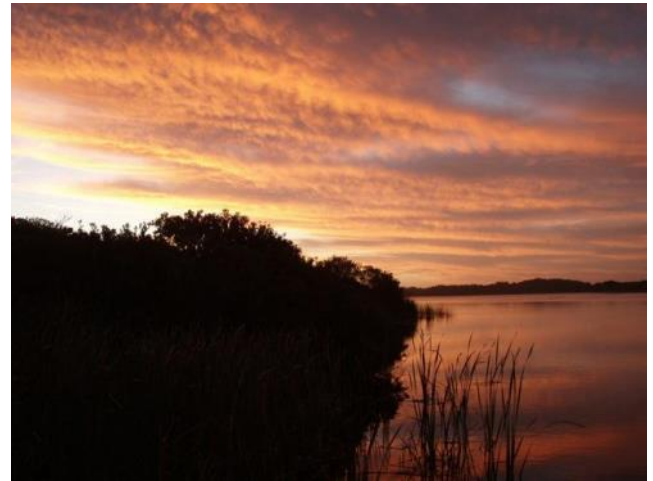
Walkers: Dianne K, Ian F, Jim F, Lothar S (leader), Paul K

Jim and I met Ian, Di and Paul in Port Fairy then we drove in convoy to Lake Monibeong (between Portland and Nelson). After taking in views of the lake from the jetty, we headed the kilometre or so to the beach. It was a lovely morning and the tide was still low enough for us to walk on some firm sand.

We covered the beach section in just over an hour and then headed inland to the Noble Rocks carpark. From there we completed the circuit via the inland GSWW route through coastal scrub. Towards the end we had great views of the lake.

Lunch was had at a picnic table at the Monibeong campsite. Afterwards we returned to the jetty to take in the lake views and enjoy the ambiance. Mmm...a great spot for a Xmas breakup weekend! (Check out the 13/3/11 sunset photo!) The Port Fairy Bakery was our coffee stop on the way home. Thank you all for a great day out!

Lothar



GSWW—Cape Bridgewater Walk: 7 May 2011

Walkers: Amanda N, Di P, Dina S (leader), Julie McK, Linda H, Lothar S, Michelle C, Noel T, Rob C, Sue M

A group of 9 walkers travelled to the Amos Road car park of the Great South West Walk on a calm, though cloudy, day to start our walk. The walk started with a descent and then a somewhat steep ascent for a look at White's Beach, whilst the car shuffle was organised. The whole group then strolled along the cliff tops with views of fabulous rock shelves and contorted outcrops along this stretch of coast. A short break was had at The Springs campsite, before moving onto The Blowhole for lunch. Needless to say, on such a calm day, there was no action at the Blowhole though waves were crashing onto the rocks.

After viewing the Petrified Forest, some of the members opted to drive onto Bridgewater Bay, whilst the rest of the crew continued on round the Cape. The seals were cavorting as usual though most were found more towards the tip of the Cape rather than near the caves.

Naturally, afterwards, the group indulged in hot drinks and in some cases, cakes (I wonder who??) to finish off the day. Thanks to the group for such an enjoyable day and to Linda and Di for their help on the day.

Dina

Childers Cove circuit: 11 May 2011

Walkers: Di P, Jim F, Lothar S (leader)

No, we weren't crazy! Rain and hail was forecast. After carefully looking at the radar we decided that the walk was a goer. It rained a bit on the way to Childers Cove so we stopped at Allansford C&BF for coffee. At CC we donned out wet weather gear but there was really no need – it only spat once or twice over the next 3 hours.

I love doing the circuit – it is just magic. Farmland, cliff tops, collapsed caves, sink hole, sand, sea and a rocky beach. We even had to cross a creek. We saw/walked it all and thoroughly enjoyed ourselves.

On the way home it started to pour on the outskirts to Warrnambool. What timing! Many thanks to Di and Jim for a great morning's walk!

Lothar



Southern Grampians—Mt Burchell, Nelson and Sturgeon : 14–15 May 2011

Walkers: Mark L, Diane D (Sunday), Peter and Kerry T (Saturday), John B, John VG (leader). All are from the Geelong Bushwalking Club except Diane (Warrnambool Walkers)

Saturday 14th May “The Burchell and Nelson plan”: We had planned to do the Mt Rosea to D’Alton Peaks section but the road was closed and no access was available. An alternative plan was hatched. It did not suit a full water carry type weekend so we went for the two day walks option starting at the Wannon Crossing Campsite. It had been a slow drive in on Friday due to the amount of wildlife on the sides of the road. The small amount of rain had gone and we looked like being in for mixed day weather wise.

We followed the Ingleton Track initially and then peeled off cross country, climbing steady thru the light regrowth to Mirranatwa Gap. From here we followed a track and were soon on the top of Mt Burchell 556 m. This was only an appetizer. Across a small saddle and in one big craggy lump was Mt Nelson 819 m. It was a slow walk and at times a scramble thru the regrowth. The Serra Range method of walking involves staying as close to the edge (the cliffs) as possible to minimize the amount of time in scrub and you are also rewarded with great views. We made the top for lunch. It was cold in the wind as various little showers came and went. After lunch we continued north along the range. We stopped and looked at the first gully and quickly decided that it was way too steep to use as a descent. The next broader gully came up after 1.5 km. It was promising and good progress was made which involved a couple of minor detours to avoid rock shelves. At around the 400 m height the escapement was finished and we crossed the remaining forested area to the Ingleton Track once again and then went south back to camp. We had bought some firewood and comfy chairs; this made for a pleasant evening and helped us ward off the wintery chill.

Sunday 15th May “The last of the Serra’s, well almost”: The last of the named Serra Range peaks was on the agenda. Nick S had gotten me interested in the idea of walking all of the named peaks. He had introduced me to Diane from Warrnambool Walkers who had done the whole range over a number of seasons. Her advice and enthusiasm has been invaluable. I have notes going back to November 2002 so this had taken me somewhat longer.

In the morning Kerry had become ill so Peter and her declined today’s walk. We drove around to Mt Sturgeon Car park to met Diane and quickly had a walk planned. The first part was up the main track to the top for some great misty mountain views of Mt Abrupt to our north. From here we repeated her first Serra Range peak walk from some years ago and went west to an unnamed peak and then down off the mountain to an old quarry track. On the way we came across an old stone wall and marvelled at the ingenuity and strength required to build such a wall on a steep slope on the park boundary. Lunch back at the gap and then we climbed The Piccaninny 422m before heading back to the cars.

In Dunkeld I declared it job done but Diane reminded me of a couple of peaks just south of Mirranatwa Gap that while unnamed, were certainly worth doing. So looks like another weekend coming up.

John VG

Rail Trail Maintenance: 29 May 2011

Walkers: Chris, Diane D, Helen, Irene, Jim, Linda H and Lothar

The Port Fairy to Warrnambool Rail Trail Committee has erected a sign and seat acknowledging the contribution by the Warrnambool Bushwalkers. In the photo you will notice Linda, Helen, Diane, Chris and Lothar; the photo was taken by Irene. Missing from the photo is Jim who was last seen heading towards Warrnambool with the slasher.

After 2 hours of battling with the cape weed and fortunately mowing the whole area we all returned to Linda and Irene's for a BBQ lunch. It was a job well done by all. Thank You.

Linda H



Progressive Lunch: 4 Jun 2011

Walkers: Chris, Coralie, Diane D, Dina, Helen, Irene, Jim, Leo, Linda H, Liz H, Lothar, Marg, Mike H, Sandra, Sue, Val

A couple of weeks before this walk, Helen and I decided we needed to do a reconnaissance of a track which would follow the outer rim of Tower Hill. After sliding down one section on our bums and crawling up another section on our hands and knees we decided that "NO" this would not be the route. So on Friday before the event, we started from where the walk would finish and went backwards to the start, success at last. We had marked the track.

Come Saturday morning everyone met at the BBQ Picnic area for soup. There were 3 varieties to choose from as well as some delicious olives, cheeses and homemade breads.

We drove our cars out of Tower Hill and parked at the exit gate and started walking towards Koroit along our new track. It was extremely interesting looking down onto the water below and seeing emus that looked like water birds paddling around in the water. We could also see over the rim and out to the ocean and in the distance we spotted the lighthouse at Port Fairy. The remainder of this section was unfortunately marred by the rubbish (tyres, wire, batteries etc) which had been thrown over the edge.

We hit the road and walked into the Commercial Hotel for mains. There were certainly no complaints about any of the meals.

From Koroit we followed the Rail Trail to Linda and Irene's where we sat around eating apple pie, lemon infused sponge cakes, chocolate, tea and coffee.

A special thank you to everyone who contributed food for the day. No matter how great or small the contribution it makes for a delicious time. I think a great day was had by all. Special thank you, to Helen for helping me determine the route.

Linda H



Northern Grampians—The Sentinel and Barney Castle: 11–13 Jun 2011

Walkers: (Warrnambool) Diane D, Coralie G, Fiona M, Bob D;

(Geelong Bushwalking Club) Penny R, Peter and Kerry T, John VG (leader)

Saturday 11th June “Walking all day and barely out of town”: Access and places to go are still hard to find so we looked at Barney Castle coming in from the north as an alternative for walking on this Queens Birthday Long weekend. We met at Delley’s Bridge and after a short car shuffle to the other end of Lake Bellfield; we began the climb to The Sentinel which was a short side trip off track. A lot of morning walkers joined us at Boronia Peak as probably it was one of the few open for this holiday weekend in the northern Grampians. No one followed us further south however. We scrambled along the top of the range enjoying views along both sides of the ridge monitoring our progress down the valley by noting where we were on the tourist rd. During the afternoon Kerry developed a migraine so we camped at the first available flattish spot. It turned out to be quite serviceable with views to both sides and we were able to slide our tents between various rocky outcrops.

Sunday 12th June “The Netherby Towers”: The long night in the tent had ended. We continued south across the Netherby Towers and The Grand Old Man peak on our way to the saddle with the pipeline track. Here Coralie went back on this track as she had to work Monday. We contoured into the Long Gully and found the dry creek bed. This was disappointing given the amount of recent rain. When we got to the saddle, three of us went to find water on the south side while the others went to look for a campsite up on the escarpment. The saddle would have been fine but we were looking for a view over dinner. 15 mins down on the south side we found a few pools of water and headed back thankful that we did not have to go all the way down to Barney Creek. The others had been successful too and soon we had our camp on the escarpment overlooking Lake Bellfield.

Monday 13th June “The last of the William Range, well almost”: The night was mild and promised a great sunrise but some cloud blocked our main morning views. We continued south to the spectacular irregular cliffs of Barney Castle. The 1st Dial and Abrupt Peak sure looked interesting from here. We had intended to visit The Dome yesterday but time ran out. When compared with the castle it looked a little boring so we were over it quite quickly. Some goats got a surprise by our presence. They appeared to be doing well in this last season, we just wish they would also eat some of the prickly hakea. Continuing west along the escarpment high above Barney Creek before eventually dropping down to the closed tourist rd near the bridge. This area had taken quite a hit in the January floods and it had knocked out the abutment on the second bridge we came across. A few kms along the quite tourist road which would normally be buzzing with traffic saw us at the Silverband Rd turnoff and our car shuffle.

John VG



A long weekend in wonderful Wyperfeld with the Warbling Warrnambool Walkers: 11–13 Jun 2011

Participants: Bill P, Chris, Helen, Irene, Ken, Linda C, Linda H, Liz H, Lothar, Marg, Mike H, Roy

I am just going to let you into little snippets of this weekend because if you didn't join us then you missed out on beautiful sunny days, chilly nights by the camp fire, walks that took your breath away, fun, music, and "food glorious food".

Our "10 hat chef" Lothar did himself proud with chicken soup (more like a casserole), roast lamb to die for with 11 or so (I lost count) vegetables, bacon, egg and cheese muffins and pancakes with fruit, maple syrup and mascarpone. Not all at once but as you can see the weekend was a feast to behold.

We did do some walking over our time away. We conquered the Discovery walk, Devils Pools, and Lake Brambruk, and even found the hole. We also took a look around the Tyakil Nature walk, and some headed to the Western lookout.

The park was alive with birdlife corellas, cockatoos, galahs, regent parrots, superb parrots, bronze wing pigeons, the "goodlookin" bird, and as a special treat we saw a robin red breast. I must not forget the emu chicks with bloomers and the kookaburras. What a magnificent choir.

I will let you all into just a couple of secrets from the weekend

- Two of our group went out flashing, but alas the person they were flashing didn't even see them!!!!
- We all shared a joint for tea
- The more you look the more you see!!!!
- Our chef extraordinaire is like a Mallee Fowl

We didn't take too kindly to being called pseudo walkers by an "unnamed" other walking group who happened to call into our camp site for a very brief chat before they disappeared into the west with very heavy fully laden packs. We wished them good health as we waved them goodbye whilst we ate our nibbles and sipped our wine.



That's all I'm going to tell you. All that's left for me to do is to say a big thank you to everyone who made this weekend such a delight, Lothar (our Leader and chef), Chris, Mike, Liz, Linda, Roy, Bill, Helen, Linda, Marg & Ken.

Finally I want to share a quote with you all, from a very wise person of this group, that I think sums up the whole weekend "don't ever lose sight of the dream".

Thanks everyone for a great weekend.

Irene

PS The joint (ie leg of lamb) was courtesy of Ken and Marg.



Mt Ararat: 15 Jun 2011

Walkers: Glenda, Jim, Ken, Lothar, Marg (leader), Sue

There were 6 walkers present to walk across paddocks and fences to scale the summit of Mt. Ararat. The day was excellent and the views of the country side of Ararat and the mountains in the distance – particularly from the top - were first class. Walking across the paddocks the sheep and lambs stopped and gazed at our presence but were not too worried about the walking group.

We had lunch at the summit then made our way down to have coffee and cake at Banfield Street.

A great day was had by all present. Our thanks to Lothar and Jim for coming up to Ararat to be on the walk.

Ken F



GOW: Gourmet Walk from 12 Apostles to Princetown: 18 Jun 2011

Walkers: Helen (leader), Irene, Jim, Linda H, Lothar, Sue

Due to weather concerns, the walk was shortened necessitating a car shuffle to Princetown. The views were stunning, especially when the sun lit up the white caps. Luckily we only experienced a couple of brief showers. Bird and wildlife was rather scarce though we did see two antechinus – one scurried across the track but the other had met its fate at the hands of a predator.

After a warm drink in front of the open fire at Princetown, we started on the other aspect of the day – sampling local wares! Gorge Chocolates offered an interesting array to sample and buy so thus fortified, we drove to Apostle Whey Cheese. After sampling the array of cheeses, we ordered a couple of platters to augment our packed lunches. Again more bags of goodies were purchased before driving to the Timboon Distillery for a well earned ice cream, cake, tea and coffee. Lothar was able to buy his smoked eels. Ugh!!

Plans are being made to repeat the trip at a later date when Heytesbury Ridge Winery is open. Thanks to all for contributing towards a very enjoyable day.

Helen

