

## Mouth to Mouth: Sunday 14th January

*Participants: Chris, Coralie 📷, Dina 📷, Jim, Lothar 📷, Luci, Mabel, Mike, and guests Glenda and John M from WA, and Peter O'S from the Mornington Peninsula. Who were the guests? All ex Warrnamboolians and ex club members.*

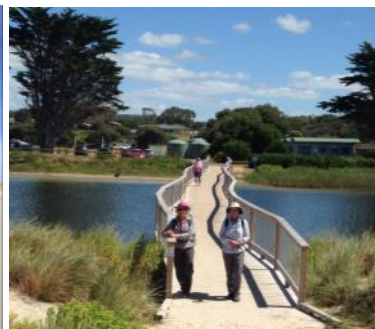
Yes! A big group! Big enough for us to win \$40 worth of vouchers for a cafe in Portland. And it wasn't because we were last...which we weren't. Take it as given that I'll be planning a walk with refreshments down Portland way early in the new year!

The weather was ideal for walking. Most did the 14–15 km walk but 2 did the 3 km walk. As usual, the longer walk involved a bus ride and a wade across the Fitzroy River. And yes, we stopped and scrambled onto the dunes to revisit the whale skull and to have some quick BYO refreshments at the bar or, if you like, pub with no beer or anything remotely consumable. Past walkers will of course be interested to know that the floating bridge over the Surrey River has been replaced by a more permanent structure.

The post walk carnival atmosphere was as good as previously, but I did miss the abalone stall. We did a fair bit of sitting in the shade and chatting and eating...before heading home in the early afternoon.

Thanks to all for a great start to the walking year!

*Lothar*



## Lake Bellfield, Sundial round trip: Tuesday 16 January

Participants: Lothar 📷, Coralie 📷 and Mabel

Lake Bellfield, where the walk commenced, is full at the moment. Weather was hot but skies clear and great visibility so we had beautiful views from the “View Point” and from the top of Sundial Peak.

A pleasant surprise awaited us at Bugiga Hikers Camp—a water tap beside the shelter! After lunch there we had a short walk down the road to Delleys Dell and the old track back to Sundial Peak and downhill to Lake Bellfield. Climbers use this track and they have kept it clear up to where they branch off. From there to the top the track is very overgrown but not too difficult to find.

*Mabel*





## Johanna to Ryan's Den: Tuesday 30 January

Gate crashers: Rob 📷 Lothar 📷, and David

We gate crashed day 3 of Mabel, Coralie and Janice's 4-day GOW hike, with David repeating his gate crash of two days earlier and Lothar and I leaving W'bool at the unearthly hour of 6 am. We did, after all, need to make Mabel's deadline of an 8:30 departure, which was easily achieved despite the road workers springing into life at two spots on the drive.

A little drizzle that couldn't make up its mind at the start of the uphill walk from the Johanna Hikers Camp was followed by a perfect day. What goes up must come down, and so did we, to Milanesia Beach. The tide was just low enough to edge around the cliffs of the beach walk to the old alternate GOW exit point for leaving the beach. Three of us scuttled up to the track, the other three went back to their packs and followed the inland route.

Blackberries had been promised by the overnights, and we were not disappointed: many tasty calories were eaten as well as being containerised to take home. The arrival of three sheep along the track at lunchtime answered the "what poo was that?" question that we had been asking. The other highlight was seeing the luxurious [L'Austral](#) filling in time in the hope of being able to unload passengers at Port Campbell.

Rob



## South W'bool Walk: Saturday 10 Feb

Walkers: David 📷, Lothar

The walk left the Surf Club at 8.35 am and proceeded along the Promenade Path towards the Breakwater. Passing the Pavilion Cafe, we walked along Viaduct Road and crossed the footbridge leading towards Pickering Point and followed the path along the cliffs towards Thunder Point, where we stopped to enjoy the view. From Thunder Point, we followed the coastal path to the Far Rocks, admiring the seascape.

We headed north into the scrub and passed the sewerage treatment works and continued north until we reached Elliot Street and followed it until Coramba Court, and then followed the Merri River downstream to the Stanley Street bridge. Here we crossed the bridge and followed the river upstream until we joined the Lake Pertobe Path.

We followed the path around Lake Pertobe and proceeded through the play ground and made our way to the Pertobe Road Cafe where we enjoyed a coffee. The weather was good and the 2-hour walk was most pleasant. We had covered about 9 km.

David



## Christobel ruin: Saturday 17 February

*Walkers: Rob (leader, 📷), Coralie, Jim, Lothar, Chris, Linda, Maxine, Lucee, Kate & Stephanie, and guests Rosalie, Jenny and Annette.*

The weather was much more conducive for this rescheduled walk to a glorious folly. The property was one of several considered at the end of the 1990s by Geelong College as a site for a school camp. Two reasons approval was not given for such use were the access road might be flooded in winter and there was no safe entry/exit in case of fire. The structural standards are a bit of an unknown and the building will be demolished this year.

Access is pretty easy: an almost flat 5 km walk along Lynch's Track. We added an extra kilometre and a hill by walking to the proposed site of the Mt Christobel hikers camp on the Grampians Peak Trail—we might have got close to the spot, who knows. Fortunately that filled in the time until just after noon and so we had lunch at the ruin before walking the 5 km back to the cars and then driving to coffee-land. Thank you all for coming.

*Rob*





## Walking near Peterborough: Saturday 24 Feb

Participants: Jim, Rob, Lothar, Ken, Shirley, Dina, Linda, David, Graeme and Coralie (leader, 📷); distance ~ 12 km

Being a little early for our rendezvous at The Bay of Islands carpark with Graeme, we moved to the 'tourist' carpark to visit the viewing platforms. When Graeme arrived, we drove to the boat ramp and commenced our first walk.

This involved following the Bay of Islands Coastal Park boundary to a number of sites that afforded great vistas of the Bay of Islands itself. It was relatively easy going as the fence line had been recently slashed, perhaps as a fire break. The intermittent 'mizzle' made temperature and water regulation tricky. It was a case of 'coats on' for a few minutes to be followed closely by a 'gear off' stop. The high cliffs dropped away dramatically in places and layers of different coloured rock and soil were clearly visible. Powerful erosive wind and wave forces were evident too in the stacks, arches and undermined edges of the cliffs.

Back in Peterborough we lunched in the park near the Curdies River Inlet. Shirley discovered she had hosted a 'blood-sucker' and as it had dined and fallen off, Lothar quickly dispatched it in a bloody streak.



After lunch we completed the cliff top walk from the township to the Bay of Martyrs carpark. This was a very easy stroll on a good, compacted surface. Places such as Wild Dog Cove, Halladale Point which tells of the demise of the sailing ship the *Falls of Halladale*, and Worm Cove provided points of interest on the way.

Returning to the town, it was decided to take coffee at the local café (which we can recommend) before heading home. Thanks to Linda for providing the hot chips and to David and Ken for ferrying the rest of the group.

*Coralie*



## Glenfyne to Timboon and return: Saturday 3 March

Our 2 day walk changed into a 1 day walk. Can you believe Thompsons Hotel at Cobden was completely booked out! So, we decided to make it a day walk, and at the last minute, to start at Glenfyne and walk to Timboon and return. A total of 24 km. Coralie 📷, Ann, Linda and I walked from Glenfyne, whilst Lothar and Chris walked from Timboon. We met near the trestle bridge.

It was an absolutely perfect day for walking, about 21 degrees, no snakes or leeches, and blackberries to eat as we walked along. Thanks to the people that participated in the walk. A most enjoyable day!

Gwenda

*The north-to-south walking team and the grand meeting of the two teams*





## Clean up Australia Day: Sunday 4 March

*Participants: Rob, Dina, Rosalie, Mary, Lothar, Jim, David, Helen R, Coralie* 📷

All our "Clean Up" volunteers arrived at Thunder Point early, so we were underway before 10 am. Rob, Jim, David, Mary, Lothar and Helen commenced walking from the Thunder Point Car Park with strict instructions NOT to collect rubbish before Shelley Beach or risk an unpleasant encounter with either the Girl Guides or Day Break Rotarians. [As that party left the car park they met someone from the guides who indicated they were free to pick up anything they liked along the path.]

Dina, Rosalie and I drove to Levy's Car Park and started our clean up from there. We met the first group after an hour or so and all returned to Levy's with the loads. Not a great deal of trash had accumulated since last year, so several people walked higher in the dunes to remove any rubbish there. The 'find of the day' was a partially buried fishing net that took a good deal of effort to free. Finally, Rob produced a knife and cut the remaining strands anchoring the net to the sand dune. Whether this knife will ever slice apples again is questionable.

We left our few bags of rubbish alongside those belonging to Clontarf College. These were taken to the tip later in the day by Kate McInnes, the Clean Up Australia Day's organiser for the WWC.

We finished the morning with coffee at the Main Beach Kiosk.

*Coralie*





## **Bridgewater Bay: Saturday 10 March**

*Walkers: Lothar (leader, 📷), Chris, Coralie, Jim, Linda, Dina, Rob 📷 and guest Peter.*

We met at the Kiosk for coffee before heading east along the beach. The low tide and firm sand made the walking easy and enabled us to get around the headland. We explored the Shelly Beach area and discovered shells, and many nooks and crannies. Rob managed to disappear into a tunnel and then reappear at the top of the cliffs.

We met Coralie walking towards us and returned to the kiosk for lunch. Afterwards Chris and Linda left, and the rest drove to the Blowholes carpark to walk from there back to the kiosk via the seals lookouts. The afternoon was hot, low 30s, but fortunately we had a bit of a breeze. Still, it was a struggle in the heat. The seals didn't disappoint though. They were as noisy, playful and smelly as ever.

Afternoon tea was at the Brass Compass in Portland. We had 4 free vouchers which covered the cost of all our drinks. The milkshakes arrived promptly but unfortunately there was a problem with the cream machine and all the iced coffees took forever to arrive. We drove home a bit later than planned! Thanks to all for a great day out!

*Lothar*



## Cape Otway to Castle Cove: Sunday 25 March

*Participants: Rob, Lothar, Jim, David, and Ross*

The predicted wet weekend meant the planned two single day walks were partially combined into a single 20 km day walk. But which day would be best varied each day as the BOM site's predictions changed. "We should have gone on Saturday" was the feeling as we starting driving: overcast sky, a little rain on the way, fog and rain at the Lavers Hill coffee stop, and a short but heavy burst of rain just after we started walking—coinciding with our visit to the GOW hikers camp's shelter—tended to reinforce this.

But no, it turned into a beautiful day for walking: good views of the cliffs and the rough seas, sunny after a couple of short sprinkles in the morning, and the vegetation either side of the track protected us from the strong wind. There was the necessary low tide to easily reach the main goal of the walk, Rainbow Falls, on firm sand. However, we baulked at the 2 km beach alternative to the higher route of the GOW: it wasn't because of the high swell but the 25-knot-headwind-blown sand stinging the face.

Fifteen minutes after we finished walking it pelted down, something that continued for much of the way home. A greater piece of good luck was finding the Lavers Hill store open 15 minutes after its stated closing time.

*Rob*





## Prinetown to Devils Kitchen and return: Saturday 31 March

*Participants: Linda (leader), Lothar (guide), and Rob driver)*

As there were only the three of us we decided that we would change the destination and just go to Childers Cove—a unanimous decision. The weather was magnificent and the sea had a quite a swell. We were astounded to see two men out on a large rock fishing. The tide was coming in and the waves were crashing around them; it was unbelievable to watch. The first loop of the walk went to the west. The second loop of this walk took us east to the area which Lothar believes is better than the Twelve Apostles and I have to agree: the best view along the Great Ocean Road with the added advantage of no tourists—it's a must to see. A busy Cheeseworld was visited as a reward on the way home.

*Linda*

