

Old Beechy Rail Trail from Beech Forest to Gellibrand section: 8 January

Walkers: *Chris, Irene, Linda, Liz, Lothar (leader), Marg, Mike*

Oh, the exquisite pleasure of taking the boots off! A cluster of heads bent over end-of-walk ice creams and lemonade spiders while bare toes wriggled excitedly under the table. We'd walked about 16k on a perfect sunny Sunday, on a wide, mostly shady track with a gentle downhill gradient. In the Otways, the air is clear, with bush and warm earth scents, and the sounds of birds and insects. It's the full sensory experience, although the seductive soft carpet of pine needles at lunch alarmed our leader, who returned to find his troops prostrate and semi-conscious under the trees.

This walk includes some wonderful native tall timber and tree ferns, some pine logging areas and a section for those with blackberry jam-making aspirations. Highly recommended.

Chris



Griffiths Island and Time and Tide Gallery: 15 January

Walkers: Andy & Helen (visitors), Chris, Di, Helen A, Irene, Ken, Leo, Linda, Lothar, Marg, Val

Our first Cappuccino walk for the year and fantastic all round! We met at the Griffiths Island carpark on a bright sunny morning and then walked clockwise around the Island. We spotted a couple of Wallabies along the way. From there we headed west beside the road to the next carpark and descended to a track along the beach. We followed this most of the way to the Gallery.

The T&T has stunning sea views and serves wonderful (and nose bleedingly expensive) cakes and other delicacies. We thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. After a photoshoot we headed back to the cars. To top off our Cappuccino Walk some of us drove into town to our favourite cafe (Reberras) where we had a superb lunch. Afterwards, a couple of the diehards (Di and Marg) walked along the beach to Killarney.

Lothar



Dunkeld, Mt Sturgeon Walk: 12 February

Walkers: Claire & Claude (visitors), Heather, Helen, Irene, Linda, Liz, Lothar (leader), Mike

The weekend was meant to be a weekend of walking and Jazzing but because of the lack of walking opportunities and the uncertainties regarding road closures (all as a result of the recent bushfires), the weekend in Halls Gap was cancelled and a day walk up Mt Sturgeon was substituted.

We left Warrnambool just before 9 am on a perfect day. We had morning tea at the pub in Dunkeld but never again - the service was so slow. It took the young guy 45 minutes to make 9 cups of tea and coffee. From there we headed to the Mt Sturgeon carpark and started walking.

We stopped at various points to take in the scenery and look at some Kangaroos and an eagle. We also saw scorched sections of bush snaking up the back of Mt Abrupt.

About 2/3 of the way up a couple of the walkers decided that they'd climbed enough, but the rest continued to the top. There we took in the views - which included an Echidna - and had a leisurely lunch. We then headed back.

On the way home we dropped in at Madigans Tearooms in Penshurst. They certainly make excellent tea and coffee - and it only took them about 5-10 minutes to serve 7 of us!

Thanks to everyone for a great day out.

Lothar



Relay for Life: 17–18 February

Walkers: Coralie, Dianne F (leader), Heather, Helen, John L, Linda, Liz, Lothar, Mabel, Max, Mike

A team of eleven Warrnambool Walkers participated in this year's Relay for Life. Friday evening was the social part of the walk with pizzas, chocolates and the mandatory red wine being enjoyed by all. Of course this sustenance is needed to ensure the walkers do not fade away to nothing!

Thanks to Linda we had a wonderful tent this year which allowed the cheer squad? to sit under cover and still see the field. Hopefully we will be able to secure the same tent for any future relays. This year instead of being a 24 hour event it ended at 1pm on Saturday which was a great idea.

We have no firm figures yet but at this stage it looks like we have raised around \$1700.00. Well done team – yet again. Thank you all for your support and efforts in helping to raise even more than expected! The fashion parade was a huge success financially - as well as being a fun evening. The wine raffle once again proved quite lucrative – especially for the winner – David Smith from Mailors Flat (still reckon that raffle is rigged!!). The petrol money was another significant contribution to our total figure!

Thanks again to the team and all who have supported the Relay for life 2006

Di



Killarney to Port Fairy and return: 19 February

Walkers: Chris, Claire & Claude (visitors), Jean (visitor), Liz, Lothar (leader), Meg (the dog), Mike

After the Relay for Life walking on Friday/Saturday there were not enough starters for the planned Warrnambool to Port Fairy walk on Sunday so a shortened return walk from K to PF was substituted. We all met at the Killarney carpark at 11am and after introducing the visitors we proceeded to the beach. The weather was fine and we only had a light headwind.

There was plenty to entertain us along the way. Meg kept the seagulls on their toes and spent most of the walk running, barking and chasing them. Master Mike wearing dark sunglasses was incognito as he had substituted his Hash House Harriers red dress for normal walking fare - see The Warrnambool Standard 18/2/06 for further info. Some collected shells, looked at the various birds, inspected a dead seal and Fairy Penguin, and chatted to the occasional fisherman.

At Port Fairy we had lunch at Rebeccas Cafe - it was busy there but excellent as usual - before leaving Chris and sister Jean behind and returning to Killarney. The tide had risen quite a bit by then and the rising water meant we walked on softer sand for the return journey.

After the walk I drove back to Port Fairy to pick up Jean and Chris and was rewarded with cake and coffee at the Time & Tide Gallery & Cafe. A fitting end to a day's walk!

Lothar



~~Cappuccino~~ Spider walk from Proudfoots to the Breakwater & return: 26 February

Walkers: *Chris, Helen, Irene, Linda, Lothar (leader), Tim & Catherine (visitors)*

It had rained heavily the day before but by 1pm on Sunday it was a sunny day. We were to walk along the promenade linking Proudfoots Boathouse to the Breakwater - a walk that combines what we do on Tuesday and Thursday nights.

We left the boathouse carpark just after 1pm and headed for the Hopkins River mouth. The mouth was blocked as usual. The tide was low and we could see the reef. We headed towards the lookout but there was a revolt so we did not climb up to the lookout. Before the Surf Club we diverted onto the beach and walked on the firm sand all the way to Fish Sails Cafe. (We never walked the extra hundred metres to the Breakwater either).

Tim, Catherine & Chris left us at this stage but the rest of us had drinks. It wasn't really a Cappuccino walk as 3 of us had enormous "Spiders" and one a milkshake.

When Linda and Irene left there was only Helen and I to return. We walked back briskly and virtually along the same path via the beach and river mouth.

A pleasant Sunday afternoon was had by all!

Lothar

Clean Up Australia at Wangoom: 5 March

Toilers: Coralie, Helen, John, Mabel

Four 'walkers' keen to make the local bush a little more beautiful, met at the Wangoom store at 8 am.

Bandanas, gloves, bags and T shirts were distributed and the clean up began in earnest. By 9 am five bags of rubbish from the roadside in the Framlingham Forest was making its way to the Wangoom tip.

Attention was then turned to a second road near Wangoom Falls. This area was obviously a favourite haunt of locals who liked to 'burn rubber'. Three old tyres, a container of oil and many food and drink receptacles were quickly removed from the roadside by the team. After coffee at the Wangoom store, Helen and John returned to the tip to explain the stack of bags sitting outside the gate (we had been too early for the usual Sunday opening times prior to coffee).

We set ourselves a limit of 2 hours and were pleased with what was achieved in that time. We would like to thank Murray Murfett, from Warrnambool City Council who provided the clean up kit and obtained permission to deposit the rubbish at the local Wangoom tip. Special thanks must go to Helen for collecting the kit, driving us to the clean up sites and arranging the removal of a dumped carcass left on the roadside and to Mabel and John for services to roadside beautification.

2007 Clean up: Next year, keep the first weekend in March free for the Clean up Australia effort. Wangoom is easily assessable from Warrnambool and in a short space of time we found we could make a noticeable improvement. If we enlisted the help of the store, perhaps Wangoom locals could join us and a greater area could be cleaned.

Coralie



**Black
Range:
17–18
March**

