

GSWW—Post and Rail Camp to Pattersons: 19 Jul 2009

Walkers: Coralie, Fiona

This adventure saw a 7.30 am leave from W'bool. Entertainment on the drive down was made up of excited recounts of the recent NT walk experience, Lake Eyre travels and of The Pie Shop.

By 10 o'clock the car shuttle was underway. The passengers were fortunate to enjoy a roadside morning tea. Some party members were craving "the pies" after Mabel's Flinders drive even searching the fridge bag. Instead we feasted on cookies, hot tea and coffee kindly arranged by Mabel.

We hit the track at ~11am and spent the day meandering the Glenelg River. Along the track we had lovely views of the river and the length was splattered with flame heath and wattles in flower. We passed through cosy little canoe camps and lunched at Murrells Camp.

Weather conditions were better than expected. The forecast showers and wind gave way to a clear, cool ideal walking day. To conclude this very pleasant 20 km stroll we sipped lattes at the Nelson Hotel. We look forward to the continuation—Pattersons to Nelson.

Fiona



Around Warrnambool with the Bayside Bushwalking Club: 25–26 Jul 2009

Walkers: Bayside: Julia T, Cornilia G, Di C, Ivan B, Sueli P, Heather A, Jasmine P, Merrill J, Kaz N, Kevin F, Max N, Kate W, Gill B, Jan P, Maggie E, Liliana C, Jocelyn W, Peter M, Debra P, Jenny L, Peter L;

Warrnambool: Helen A, Mabel M, Mike H, Liz H, Lothar S, Michael T, Liz T, Bronwyn B, Aurora & Zara L.

Around Childers Cove

We assembled at the Visitor Information Centre's carpark then headed in convoy (of 5-6 cars) to Childers Cove. We dressed in full wet weather gear then followed a figure-8 loop along cliff tops, the beach at Sandy Cove, more cliff tops and finally the stony beach at Dog Trap Bay. We then raced to the supermarket to purchase meat for the BBQ.

Tower Hill circuit

At Tower Hill we had a very late but great BBQ lunch....during which we watched the emus thieving snags and the filming of one of the pics for Bayside's nude calendar.

The route we followed took in most of the scenic lookouts and hills. The weather was superb by this stage and the views fantastic as usual; many wattles were in full bloom and they dazzled in the bright sunshine. There were also plenty of kangaroos, wallabies and koalas about (not to mention the bunnies....).

Christmas in July dinner

As per last year, the dinner was a great success. We had over 30 participants, great Christmassy food, and excellent entertainment. Once we donned the outrageous headgear we all let our hair down (so to speak). Santa greatly enjoyed the evening!

Sunday morning walks

We assembled at Proudfoots carpark then walked to the lookout above Point Ritchie. We saw a couple of whales at the river mouth then headed there for a closer look. A mother and calf. We then headed for and crossed the Hopkins River bridge before hitting the sand and heading for Logans Beach. We didn't see any more whales there but the views over the water were excellent. We returned to Proudfoots Boathouse and had a lengthy morning tea. Coffee & cake of course!



After a drive to the Breakwater carpark we explored the Breakwater area before walking to Pickering Point and Thunder Point. Back at the Breakwater we took a couple of group shots before dispersing for lunch and the trips back home.

Thank you to all who participated in the weekend activities. Judging by all the comments, everyone had a fantastic time!

Lothar



Around Port Fairy: 1 Aug 2009

Walkers: Dianne K, Linda C (leader), Lothar S, Paul K

It was raining when I dropped Chris off in Warrnambool. It looked like it was going to rain all day. However by the time I reached the Surf Club in Port Fairy the clouds (and rain) had dissipated. It was the start of quite a sunny day and just right for walking.

We walked along the sand towards the Moyne River mouth, and then along a rough track to avoid the high tide. We visited Battery Hill with its cannons, crossed the bridge to the wharf area, and then headed to Griffiths Island. Linda knew a lot of the history of the area and provided a running commentary.

We walked anticlockwise around Griffiths Island and then headed to Wisharts Cafe/gallery for coffee and a look at the artwork. What a lovely way to finish the walk!

Many thanks to Linda, Di and Paul for a very enjoyable morning.

Lothar



Halls Gap Base Camp: 29–30 Aug 2009

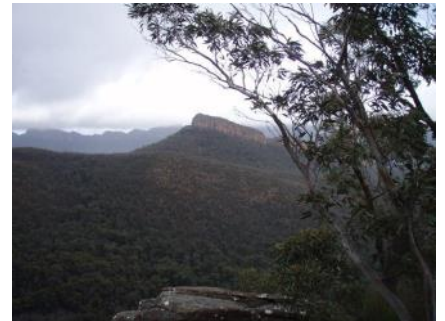
Walkers: Dina, Helen, Linda (leader) and Lothar (Saturday and Sunday) joined by Clive, Coralie, Diane D, Janice and Mabel (Saturday night)

The decision to change Saturday night's camping venue was made after the weather forecast was atrocious for the weekend. A cabin was booked with the plan to go out to the hotel for tea.

The order of walks was also changed on the day after we arrived at Halls Gap and saw the clouds gathering momentum. After coffee Lothar, Helen, Dina and I took a car up to Wonderland Car Park and walked down to Halls Gap. The first thing we noticed was how slippery the rocks were so progress was pretty slow. The second thing we noticed was that it was extremely noisy, then we realised that it was the noise of gushing water. Water was gushing down creeks and water courses and waterfalls were truly magnificent. We all agreed that we had not seen the Grampians in all this glory, we have all been walking the Grampians for years but this was breathtaking, another thing that made progress slow. Along with the water comes the growth of plants. We did not see any orchids but there were some beautiful wattles everywhere and some delicate grevilleas which were amazing.

After lunch we headed up to Sundial car park to continue on for the afternoon. By the time we reached the Pinnacle the weather was coming in again so we did not hang around for long. From the Pinnacle the going was very slow; we were slipping on rocks and just in awe of the waterfalls and creeks.

We had virtually only just arrived at the cabin when Coralie, Mabel and Di arrived. They were cold and wet so we rushed them into the shower to warm up. They had walked with Janice and Clive for the day but were happy to join us for the evening. Then to our surprise Janice and Clive also arrived at the cabin. Clive had decided that it was too wet, cold and miserable to be out in it.



The following day saw us head off into 3 different directions:

- 1) Coralie, Mabel and Di went back to Warrnambool.
- 2) Clive and Janice went back to Mt Rosea to walk down to Borough Huts; I hope they crossed the creek safely.
- 3) Helen, Lothar and I left a car on the Dunkeld road and drove up to the Mount William car park.

We were shocked to find snow lying on some logs and rocks around the car park and boy was it cold. It took us some time to find the start of the track, as it had only recently been opened after the bushfires. The track gradually made its way down. A lot of the time the track acted as a creek course for the water and we had to balance on the edges, many times we had to cross creek beds with water up to our ankles. Then in the distance we saw 2 huge waterfalls coming over the face of the cliffs in the distance, something we had never seen in that part of the Grampians before.

I must say that this weekend held my enthusiasm for the Grampians like never before. It was like the ancient feature was being cleansed after years of searing heat and drying winds.

If you get the chance to go up for a day in the near future please don't hesitate - you are in for a surprise.

Thanks to everyone for sharing the occasion with me, it was truly magic.

Linda

