

Mt Noorat—Alan Marshall Memorial Walking Track: 11 Jul 2010

Walkers: Di P, Dina, Coralie, Irene and Linda H

This track is named after the noted Australian writer, who was born in Noorat. The volcanic cone and its surroundings was a favourite place of the young Alan Marshall and his mates to hunt for rabbits and bird nests.

We arrived in sunshine under the watchful eye of a 'large black dog'. The dog then proceeded to lead the way to the summit. After climbing a small peak off the official track, we became a little suspicious of the dog's intentions. Realising we were onto her, she stuck to the most direct route after this small indiscretion, waiting patiently at intervals whilst we laboured up the steep slopes.

The bulls in the paddock barely gave us a glance as they munched contentedly on the long grass. At one stage the wind became so strong that it was difficult to walk in a straight line and gloves and hats were unearthed from packs to combat the chill factor.

At the summit we were rewarded with a wonderful view of the many volcanic peaks of the Western District. With an eye on the rapidly advancing rain clouds we decided to tackle the crater rim circuit. As we dropped off the summit, the winds eased and the aches in our fingers and ears eased.

Unfortunately the formerly attentive black dog had left us to explore the bottom of the crater. We were unsure of the best route to avoid the electric fences that seemed to loom in our path. We wriggled under one but the next break in the fence was attended by two large bulls bellowing and pawing the ground. At that point the black dog came back and guided us to a gate further down the paddock and Linda was relieved of her 'suggested role' of distracting the bulls whilst the rest of us passed through the gap.

The bus shelter in Noorat provided a very pleasant morning tea venue to conclude the walk. Thanks to Irene for driving us safely to and from the walk.

Coralie



Tree Planting at Koroit on the rail trail and Christmas in July: 31 Jul 2010

Participants: Chris, Coralie, Di P, Diane D, Dina, Helen A, Irene, Ivan, Linda H, Liz, Lothar, Mike.

By 10:30 am nearly everyone was on the Rail Trail planting trees. Once again each individual took on a particular role, either digging, allocating plants, planting, preparing guards or placing guards all around the trees, truly poetry in motion. Whilst all this was going on Irene, Di P and Chris were preparing a feast for us.

Right on cue the tree planters finished as we were being called over for lunch. We had planted another 250 trees.

After scrubbing up we sat down for lunch. What a spread we had. Coralie and Diane had bought pre nibbles, Di P had all the vegetables cooked, Irene had the lamb cooking in the slow combustion stove and the gravy bubbling on top. Helen and Chris had sweets well in hand. Following coffee discussion took place about dishes; Dina immediately put her hand up and volunteered.

Thank you to all those who helped with everything, it turned into a wonderful day. The next day it rained so all the trees had a good watering in!

Linda H

Cradle Mountain area: 7–14 Aug 2010

Walkers: Bill P, Lothar

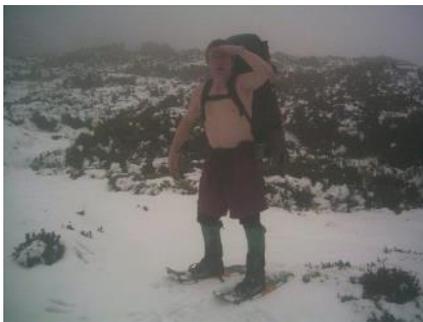
It was a treat going in winter: no Overland fees, no crowds, no problem getting into the warm dry huts, plenty of wildlife (wallabies, wombats, quolls, rare ground parrot, etc). Just not enough snow to really use the snowshoes!! Fortunately we missed most of the bad weather that Warrnambool had.

Over 5 days we walked from Dove Lake to Scott Kilvert Hut and then on to Waterfall Valley and Windermere Huts. We had a day walk to the Forth Valley Lookout before returning via Cradle Mountain and Marion's Lookout.

The food was excellent—especially Bill's dried gourmet delights!

Bill is already planning to camp in the Australian Alps next winter.

Lothar



Sri Lankan Curry night: 9 Aug 2010

Participants: Chris, Coralie, Dina, Di P, Garry, Helen A, Irene, Linda H, Mabel, Peter, Rosalie

We all arrived at the same time at Fish Tails and were taken to our table. Drink orders were placed and the first course lay on the table. All the food was delicious. However, the venue is not conducive for talking. We all found it very noisy as more and more people arrived for the evening. It was not until we got outside that we were able to actually say hello to everyone. This was a real shame because the chef had obviously gone to a lot of trouble with the meal preparation.

To top the night off Rosalie was the winner of the door prize and won a beautiful array of flowers.

Thanks again to all who came.

Linda H

Mt Sturgeon: 15 Aug 2010

Walkers: Coralie (leader), Di D, Linda and Mabel

Poor weather did not deter the four hardy walkers. It wasn't too bad at the car park but we were up in the cloud about half way through the walk. It was cold and wet but that did not deter the determined! We did get a reasonable view of the flooded swamp area in the Victoria Valley – it was good to see so much water around.

We found lots of greenhood orchids on the sandy area near the beginning of the track but were a bit early for the other types of orchids. Many of the wildflowers are starting to bloom including the grevilleas.

I will leave you to guess where we headed to after the walk! The business is up for sale so we will be keeping our eye on the outcome and hope that the business will continue.

Mabel



Northern Grampians Cappuccino Walks “Boot Camp”: 20–22 Aug 2010

Walkers: Di D, Julie A (visitor from Stawell), Linda H, Lothar (leader), Mabel M

We had 3 glorious day walks in the northern Grampians.

On Friday Mabel and I were joined by Julie at the Stapylton Campground. After a hot cuppa we started the Stapylton circuit walk. The weather was kind enough for us to go all the way to the top and we had glorious views of the surrounding countryside. Lunch was had on the way down and in front of the cave/overhang. After the walk we drove to Wartook and had coffee and cakes at the *Wander Inn*. A nice way to round off the afternoon.

Julie returned home while Mabel and I checked into the *Emu Holiday Park* cabin at Wartook. We lit the fires, had the empty gas bottle changed, and by the time Di and Linda arrived the place was nice and warm. That evening we went back to the *Wander Inn* for tea – prawns in filo pastry (x3) and surf & turf (x1). Yummos!

On Saturday we drove to the Troopers Creek campground and started the return walk to Mount Difficult. Di wasn't feeling well and after about 15 minutes she returned to the cabin. The remaining three continued the steep climb. We stopped at the Mt Difficult campground for lunch. The fog which had surrounded us since we started had magically dissipated and so Mabel and I climbed to the top. Fantastic views! The obligatory drinks and cake were had at the *Wander Inn* on the way back to the cabin.

Before tea we went for a stroll up the back road to see the sunset. For tea we had many entrées followed by Atlantic Salmon and roast vegies. Washed down by a few wines of course!

On Sunday we polished off Mabel's berries and Greek yoghurt dessert that we couldn't fit in the night before, and then packed, cleaned and vacated the cabin. Di and Linda drove home whilst Mabel and I drove to the start of the Fortress walk. The walk had a lot more uphill than I remembered but we were up to the task. Once there we had lunch at the base of the Fortress near the large overhang at the camp site.

The return walk seemed to be finished in no time at all. Hooray for downhills! Drinks and cake were had on the way home in Cavendish (at the home of the big burger). Walkers who usually



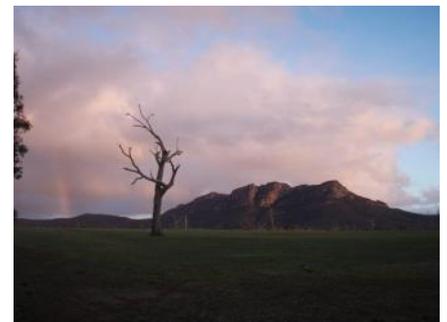
stop here will be happy to know that the wood heater—which was missing on our last visit—has returned to the establishment!

Thanks to all for making it a great “boot camp”!

Lothar

PS The large wattle tree (just outside the back door of the cabin) was spectacular and in full bloom. We dreamt of coming back again next year and hanging lots of Christmas decorations on it...oh, and doing a few walks as well.

Anyone for Christmas in July 2011 at Wartook?



Progressive Dinner: 28 Aug 2010

What a huge success this event turned out to be. 23 club members participated, some of whom we had not seen for awhile. Friendships were renewed as we walked the streets of Warrnambool from house to house.

Soup started the eating fest, as well as a little alcohol, at Coralie's. From here we wandered over to Chris and Lothar's where we were greeted by a huge array of main courses. I thought at one stage that members were settling in for the evening, so it was time to move. Before we were allowed to leave Chris asked us all to talk individually about one thing we were grateful about in our lives. There were some interesting statements, but it certainly got everyone talking again. Onto sweets! Peter and Rosalie had gone to the trouble of lighting a fire outside which attracted everyone. I was beginning to think that there was no way we could fit any more food in, but in traditional "Porker" fashion we did.

A big "Thank you" to Coralie, Chris and Lothar, Peter and Rosalie for generously offering their houses as venues for the event. To everyone who contributed food, thank you for your wonderful support.

Linda H



Fleurieu Peninsula, SA: 18–26 Sep 2010

Walkers: Coralie, Di D, Eliz, Helen, Janice, Linda H (leader), Lothar, Mike

Report 1:

Two car loads of walkers met at Keith for our first nights stay in the caravan park. Upon arrival several of us converged on the children's play ground where we were able to practice surfing, bike riding and sledging, gee we had some fun. When the others arrived we went to the local hotel for tea where the food was delicious.

Next day we had the opportunity to cross the Murray on a ferry; it was just fantastic to see the River with loads of water and flowing quite quickly. Into Victor Harbour where we had trouble finding a car park, it was the Rock and Roll Festival. Vintage cars and appropriately dressed vintage people were having a great time with Rock and Roll music in the background thumping everywhere.

Our next stop was Stringybark Camp ground which was to be our base for 3 nights. Unfortunately the weather was not kind to us and when Liz emerged from her tent after the second night of rain, with her clothes wet, it was time to reschedule.

The decision was made to shift camp. After catching up with the overnigheters to let them know of our decision, we returned to camp and set about packing up and shifting. We moved to Waitpinga Camp which is just west of Victor Harbour. This camp had an old hut which consisted of a very large sheltered area and two gas fired stoves, one for boiling the kettle and one for a BBQ, it was a delight to be there. We stayed here until the end of the walk and we were able to really enjoy ourselves.

Due to the changes we had to make, the day walkers missed out on one full day of walking but what we were able to do gave us an insight into the walking of the area.

Day one was supposed to be 10 kilometres, more like 16. Initially this day was along the coastal cliffs with Kangaroo Island in the distance. Di spotted a large pod of dolphins (in Dolphin Bay!!!) they were delightful to watch so close to the cliffs. When the track headed inland it became a relentless uphill slog, not quite so bad for those carrying day packs but those with full packs found it hard. At the intersection we broke up into 2 groups with the day walkers going back to base camp whilst the others went on to a hut on the track.



Day two was the day we decided to shift camp so the day walkers went back to the track to meet the others at the hut to let them know of our decision. Although this was a short walk in, the track followed a creek for some time and the vegetation was lush and fresh after all the rain.

Day three saw the day walkers explore the area around Waitpinga.

Day four, the day walkers walked towards the overnights. This was along the coastal cliff face, it was quite exposed but the weather was starting to warm up and a lot of time was spent taking photos of the beautiful coastal rocks.

Day five, everyone had day packs, the sun was shining, and it was truly a magnificent day. The coastal scenery was constantly changing. One minute we were walking in a Pink Gum forest, the next we were in Coastal Heath, the tallest Grass Trees I have ever seen were just beside the track. Everyone was keeping their eyes open for the orchids and we were well rewarded for our observations. Upon arrival into Victor Harbour showers by this stage were essential. One of the caravan parks allowed us all to use theirs (at a small cost) after the showers we had arranged to meet Coralie at the Victor Hotel for tea (her parents live in Victor Harbour).

Day six we all headed safely home.

I would like to thank all those who came and for their flexibility when we had to make some last minute changes. These sort of trips away are really good fun, sometimes difficult to organise but with everyone's understanding and support it is quite rewarding.

Linda

Report 2:

Tsk..tsk. Left out the best bits!

1. The purchase of tomato seedlings, and coffee/cake/pies in Strathalbyn.
2. Di bringing along a recipe book and lots of fresh ingredients to whip up a delicious dinner.
3. Coffee and cake at the Black Forest Cafe in Victor Harbor after the showers.
4. The roast dinners at the Victor Hotel where you could have slices from all the different Roastsand how only Coralie could manage to fit in dessert.



5. The 3 stops at bakeries/cafes that we HAD to have on the way home.
6. And we did laugh a lot!

#1 Porker

Report 3:

After spending the first night at Stringybark Camp Ground, in part under tarp erected as a rain shelter by Diane, we started the walk proper at the Heysen Information Board near the ferry terminal at Cape Jervis.

The overnight walkers started a little before the day walkers who were involved in car shuffling but by morning tea the full complement of walkers were following the coast line and admiring the views to Kangaroo Island across the ocean.

Leaving the pasture lands we entered the Deep Creek Conservation Park and by late afternoon we had all conquered Cobbler Hill. The wildflower show had commenced on the climb and continued to the evening camp at the Eagle Waterhole. An almighty 'pong' greeted us as we neared the hut (a dead kangaroo) but we were soon grateful for the shelter as rain set in for the evening. Double bunks were transformed into cosy 'boudoirs' with groundsheets and with plenty of space for cooking and a water tank nearby we settled in for a pleasant night.

Day 2 saw the day walkers' group rearranging their schedule to deal with the deluge they had received in the night so only Mike and Diane joined us for the day. We followed a small creek for awhile then trekked through the lush green landscape of the conservation park. The wildflowers were spectacular and the rains this year had rejuvenated the huge gums.

At the Trig Campground we came across a large school group hiking with their teachers. We continued to pass and be overtaken by them throughout the rest of the day and we could always hear them! They showed no fear crossing a swollen creek and enjoyed skylarking around the waterfall. Later we found out they had only just started their hike—no wonder they had so much energy.

That evening Linda drove in to Tapanappa Campground to pick up Mike and Diane. Lothar, Janice and I found a pretty spot under the gums and pitched our tents. Fortunately it was a



large enough camp ground to accommodate us and the two school grounds that we found ourselves sandwiched between.

We were away early the next morning and after a pleasant contoured walk through the bush we hit Tunkalila Beach. A shark near some rocks, perhaps rounding up its lunch, commanded our attention for a time. Soon soft sand drove us to walk most of the 4 kilometres along this beach near the fence line of the farm properties.

The red Heysen markers pointed abruptly up from the beach and a nasty climb ensued – some parts were so steep we relied on the fence posts to pull us up. It was then an undulating meander across farmland. In fine weather this could had been enjoyable but a light, persistent rain couple with knee-high wet grass meant soggy, wet feet for some.

The camping area at Balquhiddier West, a small grassy, sloping verge on the corner of a road did little to cheer the spirits either and when the farm manager came by to turn on the nearby generator for the night, things were looking down right miserable. His kindness, however, it not running that night and that of a farm worker who chain-sawed us a load of firewood turned the evening around and we had a fun night of toasting socks and boots around a small blaze.

The trail continued along roads and through well-grazed farm lands the next morning but we did have wonderful glimpses of the coast. We crossed a couple of small streams and then headed up to the cliff-line only to be greeted by the day walkers. Lunch was enjoyed shortly after on a small beach.

As the afternoon wore on the sun came out and short sleeves appeared for the first time on the trip. The beautiful Waitpinga surf beach beckoned and we were soon taking photographs on the wooden platforms leading up to the carpark. After another kilometre or so we were in the camp ground, rifling through 'clean' gear and food left in the cars.

A marvellous 'high tea,' compliments of the day walkers greeted us as we emerged from striking camp. After 4 days on the trail it was a welcome respite from 'Vita Weats'. More was to come for the evening meal however, as Diane prepared the most magnificent lentil stew full of fresh veggies, you are ever likely to taste.



The sun shone brightly for our final day and we all walked with day packs the 16 or so kilometres into Victor Harbor. Again the wildflowers proved to be a highlight as were the views from the cliffs and the sighting of a whale and calf near King Head, close to Victor Harbor.

Thanks to all who attended for the camaraderie and the transportation of gear and people. A special thanks to Linda for her diligence and care in organising the trip so that both day and overnight walkers could experience this beautiful part of Australia.

Coralie

