

Byaduk Caves, Mt. Napier and Mt. Rouse: 9 Oct 2011

Walkers: Di, Dina, Mabel, Rob

A group of four walkers set off to explore this volcanic region on Oct. 9th. First stop was the caves at Byaduk, of which only one is accessible. Inspired by Mabel's enthusiasm, we clambered to the furthest reaches over wet, slippery, guano covered rocks to achieve our goal.

We drove on to Mt. Napier and climbed to the summit, then circled the crater's edge for good though hazy views of the Western District. We finally spotted a koala on the drive out, though apparently, it wasn't happy to see us, and promptly climbed into the higher reaches of its tree.

Last stop was Mt. Rouse at Peshurst for a quick circuit of the almost paved track to the top, with even better views of the Grampians.

Coffee and cake (of course) was consumed at Koroit on the way home. Thanks to Mabel, Rob and Di for a very pleasant Sunday jaunt.

Dina

Lake Bellfield to Halls Gap via Sundial Peak and the Pinnacle: 15 Oct 2011

Walkers: Coralie, Janice, Mabel and Marg F

This walk had been variously advertised but the final decision made was to climb Sundial Peak from the Grampians Tourist Road, near lake Bellfield and walk north across the Wonderland Range to Halls Gap.

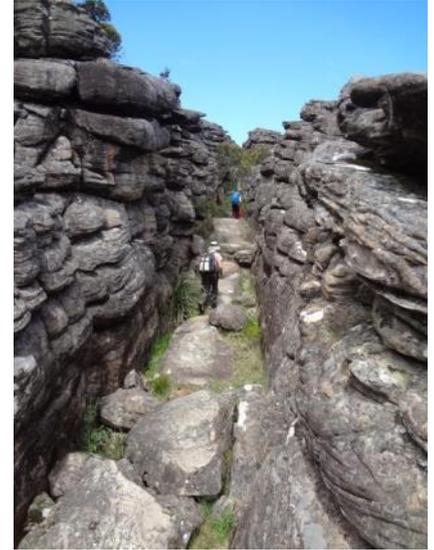
Stopping many times to put on or take off rain gear, admire the profusion of wildflowers and the views it took until lunchtime to climb from the lake to Sundial Peak. A break in the misty rain enabled us to enjoy lunch on some rocks near the summit lookout.

After lunch we walked via Sundial Carpark towards the peak. Nearing The Pinnacle we had a choice to head straight to the peak or take the circuit route via Silent Street. As it had been a while since some of us had travelled Silent Street we took this track, adding an extra 2 kilometres to the journey.

Many more walkers were encountered near the top of The Pinnacle, not surprising to us as there are still limited options for day walks in the area. Again we were delighted by carpets of wildflowers too numerous to mention. It should be noted that the Visitor Information Centre in Halls Gap has produced a coloured pamphlet depicting some of the most common wildflowers in the region.

Back in Halls Gap we were sated by coffee and slices at the Black Panther Cafe before we headed to our respective homes.

Coralie



Queenscliff Weekend: 17–19 Nov 2011

Walkers: Irene, Linda, Sandra, Di P, Coralie, Helen, Marg and Ken

Eight members of the club travelled to Queenscliff to spend some time together and walk through more of the Point Nepean National Park, as a follow on from last year's successful trip. Irene and Linda were in their caravan and Sandra, Di P, Coralie, Helen, and Marg and Ken shared a really nice cabin at the Big 4 Caravan Park.

Dinner Friday night was Italian in theme and a beautiful feast thanks to Sandra's culinary skill! We set off on Saturday morning for the ferry to Sorrento in heavy rain but this stopped soon after we left the ferry. A local bus took us to the Information centre from where we walked on tracks and roads towards the end of the Peninsula. It was grey and overcast but the rain stayed away until after lunch and so we returned to catch the ferry and back to our cabin to dry off.

Dinner Saturday night was at the grand old Queenscliff Hotel where we dined in style and marvelled at the beautiful Victorian grandeur of this hotel.

Sunday was sunny and so we took a stroll along the beach at Point Lonsdale before following our various agendas.

Thanks to Sandra for her organisation and we all trust her business trip to Singapore and Hong Kong goes well.

Di P



End of Year breakup weekend at Lake Monibeong: 10–11 Dec 2011

There was a good roll up at our annual break up weekend and whilst we missed "master chefs" Lothar and Chris, many hands came to the fore and the food, drink and entertainment were all excellent. The pictures above tell only part of the story...



Port Fairy to Warrnambool: 28 Dec 2011

Walkers: Colin O'M, Jim F, Rob C, Sue O'M, Lothar (leader)

We met at 1.30 pm at Thunder Point then drove in one vehicle to Port Fairy. The tide wasn't the lowest it could be for this type of walk but we started on a falling tide at 2 pm. Our footwear ranged from sandals to sneakers and on to heavy leather walking boots. I think the sneakers won out on the day or was it due to the fitness levels of the younger newcomers?

After 2 hours we had a 15 minute rest stop at Killarney (near the swings and slides). For the rest of the walk though we only had two minute breathers on a few occasions.

By the time we reached the soft sand at Levy Point I was whacked. After another hour we reached Thunder Point. Chris was there to meet us and she drove Jim and me to Port Fairy to pick up Jim's vehicle. Thank you Chris!

And many thanks to the team for making it an enjoyable walk. I am already looking forward to the next one!

Lothar