

Rail trail Bike Ride (Koroit to Port Fairy return): 14 Apr 2012

Walkers: Coralie, Jim, Leo, Liz, Mabel, Mike, Val, and Ian and Robyn from the Friends of the Rail Trail.

On a lovely Saturday nine of us gathered at the Koroit Station to cycle to Port Fairy. The group included Mabel, Mick and Liz, Leo and Val, Coralie, Jim and Ian and Robyn from the Friends of the Rail Trail. Mabel, Mick and Liz cycled out from Warrnambool as a warm-up before we started.

Port Fairy turned on the Saturday Market to help sustain us for the return journey. Great ride had by all.

On arrival back at Koroit Mabel and Mick cycled on to Warrnambool. Can't wait for the opening of the full trail!

Jim F



Knowledge Track to Melanesia Beach (an alternative to the Great Ocean Walk): 22 Apr 2012

Walkers: Ailsa M, Graeme W (leader), Kate M, Lothar S, Mabel M, Peta K, Rob C and Zoe V

The Great Ocean Walk (GOW) around the Moonlight Head area has some of the most spectacular views of a very rugged coast. Unfortunately, sections of the GOW walk in this area are on roads taking walkers away from the coast and its views. There are, however, some little known tracks that access the coast away from the official GOW.

On this activity, eight of us tackled a little used track that starts from Knowledge Track and finishing at Melanesia Beach. The track gave us a good variety of walking; from the cliff tops through thick coastal bush, scrambling up and down steep gullies and finally a good stretch of beach walking. After lunch near the Melanesia beach cottage we re-joined the main GOW walking track. Feeling fit and taking advantage of good walking weather we continued on as far as the Ryan's Den access track, finally reaching our pre-positioned car on the Great Ocean Road mid-afternoon.

In a major break with club tradition, Lothar missed out on coffee and cake!

Graeme W



Mt Ararat Walk 25/4

Walkers: Coralie, Helen, Jim, Ken, Lothar and Marg (leader)

On an overcast cool day the six walkers (after a car shuttle) walked across Mt Ararat from one side to the other. The walk was excellent. We all saw eagles soaring thermal currents, rabbits, foxes, kangaroos plus sheep and their young lambs.

After lunch which was in a sheltered spot out of the wind, we wandered down to the waiting car through rocky outcrops on the south side of the mountain. The car was awaiting us. After picking the other car up, we all made our way to Banfield Street for coffee and cake. We all enjoyed seeing the various mountain ranges from the summit.

Thanks to our friends from Warrnambool in joining in the walk which was most pleasant.

Ken



GSWW—Trewalla to Cape Nelson: 28 Apr 2012

Walkers: Bob, Dina, Fiona, Jim, and Lothar (leader)

Five Warrnambool Walkers travelled in convoy to the start of our walk from Trewalla to Cape Nelson on a pleasant Saturday morning in April. Happily, the wind was behind us on the first leg walking along a beautiful beach for the first hour. There was little man made material washed up on the beach, though Jim did manage to find another buoy for Marg F.!!! We then climbed up the dune to continue our walk slightly more inland and then along the cliff top.

The imminent arrival of a squall saw lunch deferred, wet weather gear donned, and a mad dash for the Lighthouse. But needless to say of course, the squall launched itself upon us before the end of the walk. To remain upright, we all had to lean hard into the wind on our right, towards the cliff edge; happily it was all over in 30 minutes and we had another 30 minutes more walking till we reached the Lighthouse, allowing the worst of the moisture to drip off our lower bodies!

Lunch was taken at the Bridgewater Bay Café, before we all set off home again. Many thanks to Lothar who filled in as leader at the last minute. Other walkers were Jim, Fiona and Bob, and Dina.



Southern Grampians—Serra Range, South of D25: 5–6 May 2012

Walkers: Coralie G, Diane D, and from the Geelong BWC John G and John VG (leader).

Saturday 5th May: “The naming of Diane’s Delight”. Last time on the Serra Range on the "South of Mirranatwa Gap" weekend we cut the walk a little short (rain and all) and came down from the range and out on the road at the sign "D25" (Dunkeld 25 km). We had planned to start where we exited the last time but the access from the fire line trail was very tempting and made for a better car shuffle.

We strolled up the sandy fire trail to the saddle and began to climb and onto the range keeping to the skyline edge wherever possible. Here the views are rewarding, route finding is easier and it also minimizes the contact with the scrub. It does also mean that progress is around 700 to 800 m per hour. It was cool and partly cloudy but we surprising worked up a sweat because there was little breeze. Soon we were on a 600 m peak and 300 m above the valley, one of many which is part of the great sawtooth of the Serra Range. A series of bumps later we were in a saddle and looking up at the 700 m peak which stood between us and the proposed camping saddle. Short, steep and scrubby! Many peaks do not have name so we proposed to call it “Diane’s Delight”. To get off we had to traverse a fair way to the west to find a gap in the cliff. We then crossed a high level saddle before descending down to a low broad and rocky saddle. Here there were the remains of an old 4wd track which crossed in this saddle. A small amount of work was needed to shuffle some rocks for a scattered camp. A cool but windless evening, even in this saddle, made for a comfortable night and we headed off early.

Sunday 6th May: “The second 700m peak was easier” The saddle proved to be a reasonable place to be overnight. We headed off north and skirted around a cone shaped peak crossing a saddle filled with regrowth and begun to climb to the edge of the range once again. Here there were some great misty morning mountain shots taken. Most enjoyable! There was a series of 600 m peaks before the main event of the 700 m. This one however, was much easier than one yesterday. A series of open rocky blocks on the edge managed to miss most of the scrub without being too steep. Some confused ground was ahead before we dropped down to a small saddle and exited off the range. Very steep and slippery in places before it gradually began to open up and eventually become the flat plains near the road. A quick car shuffle and change in Dunkeld before heading home.

John VG



Timboon Rail Trail: 20 May 2012

Walkers: Di P, Dina, Gary, Helen, Jim, Linda H and Lothar

Report 1:

Seven members of the club participated in this great walk, with the carrot at the end being a delicious lunch at the Distillery. To save the time taken for a car shuffle, Linda and I headed to Timboon and the remainder of the group to the Glenfyne Hall where they began the walk and then when we reached the half-way point, Dina and I walked back to Glenfyne, and then drove to the Distillery to meet the others.

It was a great day for walking, slightly misty but not too cold. We encountered a group of young scouts doing a trial walk prior to them being let loose on an unescorted overnight walk as part of their program for the year. The leeches were around as always and two of us fell victim to their hunger or is it thirst!...not a pretty sight.

After a delicious lunch we headed home to do the Sunday chores.

Di P

Report 2:

On a calm though somewhat overcast day, seven Warrnambool Walkers met to walk the rail trail from Glenfyne to Timboon (approx. 11–12 km). Five started from the northern end and two from the other end. The gentle terrain and wide path allowed for plenty of rubber necking at the views as well as chin wagging, though some care was required walking over the slippery railway sleepers. At the meeting point, the 2 groups reconfigured and two groups continued on to either end of the walk. One member of each group managed to unknowingly carry a passenger to the end, only being made aware of their leech, when they found “all this blood” on their legs.

The morning’s activity concluded with lunch at the Timboon Distillery. Many thanks to Di, Jim, Lothar, Linda, Helen and Garry for coming on this enjoyable walk with me.

Dina



Mt Clay - Narrawong State Forest 27/5

Walkers: Graeme W, Lothar S, Rob C, and Murray K (Camperdown Bushwalking Club)

A fit and eager group of four met at the KFC car park at 8.30 am on the Sunday morning for the long drive to Mt Clay. Mt Clay is part of the extensive State Forest Area between Narrawong and Heywood. The forest offers a wide range of different bush from tall forest through to heathland and swamps with a good network of 4x4 tracks.

After morning tea at the sawpit picnic ground we set forth on foot into the northwest section of the State Forest. Making good time on the generally sandy tracks, all well marked on our 1:25,000 map, we decided to extend our walk to include an additional large loop in the northern section of forest. This loop took us past some recently completed fuel reduction burns as well as up several hills giving us views across the forest area.

In all we estimated that we had walked approximately 17–18 km for the day, explaining a) us being quite footsore and b) our appetite for coffee and cakes at the Port Fairy bakery.

Graeme W



Rifle Range to Childers Cove: 3 Jun 2012

Walkers: Di D, Helen A, Lothar S (leader), Rob C

We dropped one vehicle off at Childers Cove then drove to the end of the road to the Rifle Range. During this exercise the rain was constant. Should we start the walk or put it off until later? These were the burning questions as we dug into the morning tea basket in the boot and had tea, coffee and cake. Magically, as we pondered, the rain cleared. Donning rain gear, just in case, we started the walk.

Di who used to live in the area knew a great spot near the start that she wanted to show us. So we took off our packs and scrambled down cliffs to reach the large overhang area that some of the surfers use. Impressive!

Walking east along the management track we eventually came to the shack, then headed south to the top of the cliffs. A great morning tea spot, looking out over the sea and the ragged coastline! Before heading off we scrambled down the nearby gully to view the impressive cone shaped stack from sea level.

Heading further west we reached the collapsed cave feature. Beyond this we had lunch in an elevated rocky area before negotiating some more bushes. We eventually reconnected with the management track for a few km before heading back to the cliff-tops.

From here we picked our way to Childers Cove.

It started to rain again on the drive home. How lucky were we!

Lothar



Wyperfeld NP : 8–11 Jun 2012

Walkers: Lothar, Chris and Helen

The group was small but the company was excellent; especially the very friendly Bendigo Bushwalking Club camped next to us (lots of stories about Bill P!). The Park is very dry so wildlife was scarce. Nights were below freezing (ice on the tent still at 9.30 am) but a good fire, good food and wine helped counteract this. Despite having done the walks before, they are still enjoyable.

Helen

Southern Grampians: Serra Range, Mount Rosea and the D'alton Peaks: 9–11 Jun 2012

Walkers: Bill P, Coralie G and Diane D from WBC, and from Geelong BWC John G, John VG (leader) and Penny R

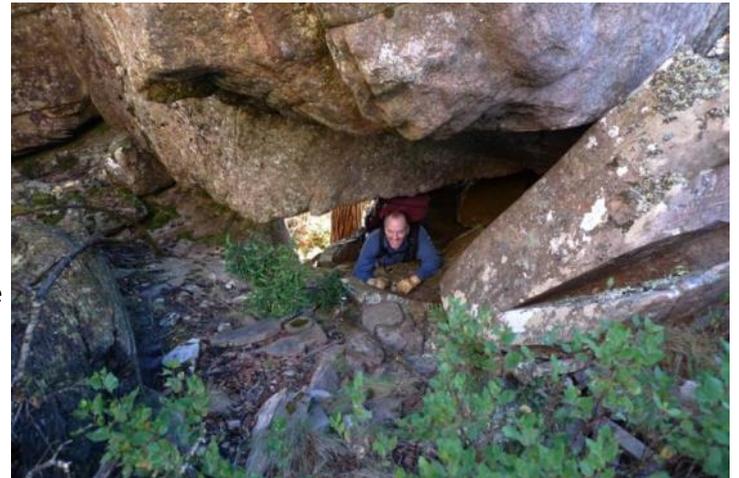
Saturday 9th June “Always pays to camp up high”

With the various road closures and otherwise extended car shuffling we decided to start and finish this 3 day walk at Borough Huts just south of Halls Gap. Diane and Coralie had done a magnificent effort a few weekends before and placed a water drop at Middleton Gap so that we started with a “normal” load of water for two days and not three. We commenced on the Chislett Track up to Mt Rosea via Sanderson Gap. The track had suffered some major landslips in the floods of Jan 2011 and had not been rerouted as yet. The gap was nice but instead of setting up camp we had a quick lunch and headed for the peak. Diane returned down the track as she was only able to join us for the morning. At around 1000 m which was some 700 m above the valley there was a flattening of the ridge and a scattered campsite could be made. We always like camping up high for the views and while none were on offer promises could be made. So back down to the gap we went to retrieve our packs and return to set up camp amongst the rocks. We then continued on the ridge to the main Rosea peak. We came back, rugged up and settled in for a cold and overcast but mostly still night. I insisted that we stay up till 7.00 pm.



Sunday 10th June “Staying close to the edge is a Serra Range golden rule”

The high level camp proved its worth in the morning as we took in the extensive views down the valley and the cloud filled Victoria Valley over breakfast. Some relished the 12 hours in the warmth of the sleeping bag but that is way too long for me. We went back down to the gap then commenced the climb out the other side. The climb was a mixture of rock scrambling and scrub negotiating which is just the way we like it to keep us interested. There was a half decent campsite near the top but it was too early. We struggled to find a way down the cliffs between the D'alton Peaks. We could get down one layer but not both and the thought of losing a lot of



height and a long traverse west was not that enticing. I dropped my pack and scouted a crack in the rocks which appeared to end near a fully grown tree. This short sharp drop led to a ledge and a more steep ground and the saddle between the peaks. I returned and went back down with the group. The second of the peaks was straightforward and the views down the valley were superb. We made the Middleton Gap late afternoon and certainly no one was looking to continue and camp up high.

Monday 11th June “The pancake rocks of Birges Nose”

The spacious saddle with its tall trees proved to be comfortable place. It had also protected us from a frost due to the clear skies. Climbing straight up out of the saddle was a good thing as we warmed up quickly and it gave access to some of the best views of the trip. The “pancake” rock formations were outstanding and almost comical at times. Middleton Peak was quickly gained and

Birges Nose beyond was on about the same level. We dropped off the nose and saw a short sharp climb ahead and decided that the small gap that we in was a good place to descend. There were animal tracks which was a good sign as there are limited access points to and across the range. We peered down from the rocky escarpments and Penny scouted a gap next to a prominent rock outcrop where the animals had descended. Lunch first though. You look at it on the map and think how hard can the next two km be? Well, dropping 600 m in scrub and most of it in the first km means slow going of around 400 m per hour. We avoided any creeks because of the additional scrub before coming out on a tributary of the Basin Creek which had been scoured out and used that for the final leg to the Ingleton Track and the main road. The drivers headed off for the cars back at Borough Huts and then we were soon on our way back to Dunkeld for a coffee.

John VG



Around Childers Cove: 17 Jun 2012

Walkers: Helen A, Irene H, Jim F, Kate M, Linda H, Lothar S (leader), Rob C

Report 1: I have only visited this area once before and that was two years ago when the Bayside Club visited. On that walk of course we were chatting away and I did not really get the opportunity to look at the scenery. On Saturday we stopped many times to take in the views and I was blown away by the absolute raw beauty of the coast line, far more so than the Twelve Apostles coast. It makes me wonder why it has not been developed but the cliff face is extremely dangerous, with sink holes and caves cutting in under the cliff. You could guarantee that tourists would disregard the warning signs and there would be deaths. I have discovered since, that one of the beaches is a nudist beach and that there have in fact been a couple of people disappearing along the coast. I kept on saying to the other walkers, "Why would you want to live anywhere else when we have a coast like we do."

Linda

Report 2: We left the KFC carpark in 2 vehicles at 8:30 am expecting the walk to commence from Childers Cove (CC) at about 9 am. One of the vehicles missed the turnoff and went on a Sunday drive past Nullawarre...by the time they got to CC we didn't start until closer to 10 am. The morning rain had well and truly gone when we started our circuit. We hugged the fence line, walking west for a km or so before turning south onto an even narrower track. Kangaroos hopped in the distance. We stopped at the top of the cliffs to take in the views and then carefully picked our way back towards CC.

From CC we walked past caves and a large sinkhole, and came out of the scrub at the toilet block and picnic table. A quick dash to the nearby vehicle to pick up supplies enabled us to have hot tea and coffee for morning tea.

The headland east of Murnanes Bay led us to more spectacular views – including views of Sandy Bay which I believe rival anything near the 12 Apostles. After a spot of bush bashing we reached a track that led down to the Sandy Bay beach. The large stacks looked even more impressive from this angle.

We walked along the beach, paused at the creek estuary, and then made our way to the top of the cliffs. Walking further east we ended up at Dog Trap Bay (?) where instead of sand you have pebbles and rocks along the beach. We returned to CC via the Stanhope Bay Track and the CC entrance road. Afterwards, we enjoyed lunch and refreshments at Cheese World, Allansford. Thanks to all for a great day out!

Lothar



Childers Cove to Mathiesons Road: 23 Jun 2012

Walkers: Graeme W, Helen A, Jim F, Kate M, Lothar (leader), Rob C

We met next to the “KFC carpark”, drove to Mathiesons Road (just past Nullawarre), and then leaving one vehicle there drove to Murnane Bay – a stone’s throw from Childers Cove. When the rain stopped we donned our full wet weather gear – it would end up drizzling on and off for the duration of the walk.

From here we traversed some of the headlands and beaches that we visited the previous week, and then walked further east into “new” territory. Past Stanhope Bay we hit some mud as we scrambled down a washed out gully. No slips fortunately! Further east we took in the views from the cliff tops.

We continued along the management track, eventually diverging to a quad bike track down to the beach. Out of the wind (and rain) we took off our packs and had morning tea. We then trudged in single file along the soft sand for 1–2 km until we came to a spot directly beneath the car park. The tide was too high to get around the headland so our choices were to retrace our steps via the soft sand or to scramble up the steep path to the car park. We chose the latter. The way was muddy and slippery in parts but we all arrived at the top without incident.

A possible extension of the walk – a return trip to Flaxman’s Hill – was quickly forgotten as we scrambled into the vehicle for the drive back to Murnane Bay. There we changed into dry clothes and (minus Graeme) headed to Cheese World for lunch and other hot refreshments.

Once again, thanks to all for a great day walk and pleasant company!

Lothar

