

Saturday July 5: Childers Cove

Rob (leader and unbiased reporter), Linda, Marg and Graeme

Given the mind-numbing planning that went into this epic, I think that the report merely needs to parrot the extensive track notes provided: “... starts from Stanhope Bay, goes about 2.4 km along the cliff tops before returning to the fence line. Then it’s 0.2 km down to the beach, 1.5 km along the beach, before returning to the start along the fence line (3.6 km)”. And so that came to pass: good views, no scrub, a couple of interesting descents, very strong winds, sunshine, rainbows (but no rain), friendly calves, all making for a pleasant walk on rock, beach and track. The picture of the nibbles stop doesn’t do the place justice: a roofless area surrounded by cliffs and entered from the right through a second arch.



Trip Reports

Saturday July 26: A wattle walk around Tower Hill

Lothar (leader), Linda, Irene, Mike, Liz, Gwenda, David, Mabel, Helen A, Jim, Everard, Rob

A pleasant morning stroll in a clover leaf configuration to eye off the wattles. Maybe it was a little early for the flowers to be at their best but given the weather either side of the day, very good timing indeed. Mabel tackled part of the walk, her first for a while. The two koalas showing little interest in the BBQ that followed, in contrast to the emu which required constant shooing away from its job of cleaning the cooking surfaces.

Rob



Saturday August 2: Nahoghid to Timboon and return by bike

Coralie (leader), Diane, Helen A, Jim, Mabel, Marg, Rob, Steve

Steve's photo of the Curdies River bridge gives an idea of the weather in the preceding days. Efforts to convince Coralie to go skiing in the Grampians failed. And fair enough: she can be rightly proud of her elevation to 'weather goddess' status—the morning had glorious sunshine. The rail trail had a firm surface despite some long puddles, and provided opportunities to practice our tree clearing techniques. Steve's good deed for the day was changing Marg's bike's punctured tube. It was a slowish ride and, although only 60 km, we finished later than expected. Thank you, Coralie, it was a lovely day's cycling.

The text for the day is Matthew 20:16, which is particularly applicable when driving from the coffee stop at Camperdown to the start of the Rail Trail and a turn is missed.



Trip Reports

Saturday August 16: Nigretta Falls, Wannon Falls and Mt. Napier

A group of six Warrnambool Bushwalkers ventured to the Hamilton district to check out the local “sights”. Happily there was a good amount of water going over both falls. Access to the base of the falls was only possible at Nigretta, with the whole group enjoying a scramble around the rocks. At the Wannon Falls, we walked for 20 minutes to view the falls from a distance—the ford was under water, making the view point across from the Wannon inaccessible. After we ate Helen’s muffins, we drove to Mt. Napier, which we scaled for some good views of the district before eating lunch in a sheltered spot below the summit.

Naturally, we stopped for coffee in Koroit on the way home, and were gutted when there seemed to be no vanilla slices on offer. However, a tray of said delights appeared whilst we were enjoying the coffee, so all went home fully satisfied with the day’s activities.

Thanks to Lothar, Helen, Mike, Mabel and Rob for coming along. *Dina*



August 30–September 11: the Flinders Ranges

Lothar (leader), Mike & Liz, Linda, Diane and Rob

Despite various degrees of success in negotiating Adelaide, four cars converged on Wilpena Pound on a sunny Sunday. After a day walk across the Pound and a tourist drive to unearth pies, we settled in at the beautiful campsite at Aroona, our base for four walks. We moved a little further south to the more austere campsite at Acraman for two more walks before returning to Wilpena Pound and the big challenge, St Mary's Peak. Busy little walkers we were indeed. Our individual thoughts on the adventure follow, but first and foremost, we all give our hearty thanks to Lothar for planning and leading the trip.



Lothar's thoughts:

Two days up and two days back with 8 day walks in between...plus the extra walks and climbs undertaken by Di and Rob. ECAs were numerous and included 2 pub meals in Hahndorf, lunch at the Parachilna Hotel, a couple of 'happy hours' and a bistro meal at Wilpena, and several visits to the Blinman General Store for their home made gourmet delights of meat pies and Quandong pies.

We had rain, restricted views and leaky tents on our first day/night there but thereafter had good weather with temperatures peaking at about 24°C. A bit blowy on our last night there though...

For me the good thing was that everyone got on well and seemed to have a really good time. We were able to change the itinerary to suit the logistical problems, conditions and personal preferences. The return walk and climb to St Mary's Peak was the best and hardest walk for me, but I most enjoyed the camping at Aroona. For the next trip there though we should take up a trailer load of wood. The campfire experience was sorely missed by all. All eagerly gathering around the fireplace to watch the rubbish burning (for a couple of minutes) just isn't the same!

Wilpena Pound campsite, Aroona campsite, Red Hill at Aroona, Blinman Pools



Michael's thoughts:

Highlight: walking to St Mary's Peak. An iconic walk for the Flinders Ranges, starting gently and becoming steeper and more difficult as we climbed to the saddle and the peak. Wonderful rocky and craggy climb, with magnificent views to the south and east over the Pound, north to where we'd been, and west to Lake Torrens. Then the nice return walk to the campsite, with the promise of a lovely hot shower, a beer and a slap-up meal with friends.



Lowlight: discovering that the tent is not watertight. We found that the tent dripped during a fairly heavy down-pour. We figured out that we have always used this tent in Summer, and had not wet the canvas to make the tent water-proof. We have now.

Overall: a very enjoyable extended trip to the Flinders Ranges, with interesting walks, time to relax, and time to explore interesting places such as Blinman, and the attractions of the Blinman copper mine and the Blinman Pie Shop.

Thank you Lothar for a very successful camping and walking trip.

Elizabeth's thoughts:

Highlights: Tour of the Blinman copper mine and then watching my beloved Sydney Swans defeat Fremantle in the AFL semi final. Football is my second religion; I've been a passionate Swans and South Melbourne supporter since 1958! Also learning about the artist Hans Heysen, and Reg and Griselda Sprigg, who developed Arkaroola Resort in the northern Flinders Ranges.

Lowlight: Hiking to Bridle Gap and being drenched by heavy showers, feeling cold and wet and not even being rewarded by a spectacular view. Unfortunately my raincoat was not waterproof and I had left my Gortex at home! I prefer hiking in fine weather and fortunately the rest of our camping trip was sunny and warm.

Overall: This was our fifth camping trip to the Flinders Ranges—1979, 1989, 2003, 2006 and this year in the springtime. I loved the beautiful spring flowers, spectacular mountain scenery and native animals and birds.

Thank you Lothar for being our caring leader. This camp was a spiritually healing experience for me.



Rob's thoughts:

The Flinders Ranges trip was most enjoyable, as I thought it would be. An emu's "nest" with 9 eggs was perhaps the most unexpected thing seen. Not taking a photo of our three water-surrounded (but fortunately water-proof-floored) tents after a brief but heavy downpour might be the biggest regret.

I took a different route home to the others and broke the 1100 km drive with some walks. First stop was the well-worth-visiting Alligator Gorge with its 4 hour walk. Its camp site, about 300 metres from the no-camping-at car park, proved a better choice than Melrose's camping ground which had two busloads of school kids.

The next day's exercise was an ascent of Mt Remarkable with its scree slopes and well graded track: good but hazy views of the surrounding plain but a summit that is unremarkable. After lunch (a Melrose pie, not as good as a Blinman pie) there was a 300 km drive south and east along route B64 through Burra (it deserved better than just a petrol and Magnum stop) to reach the Loch Luna Game Reserve. I was the only camper in the 10 no-facilities campsites on a backwater of the Murray River: lots of water birds and lots of truck noise from far away across the water.

Next on the agenda was Ngarkat Conservation Park, reached by way of Loxton and Pinaroo. I had thought the park would be similar to Wyperfeld, but was disappointed: the scrub was lower and not as picturesque. The walk to Scorpion Springs (a large sand hollow with a swooping magpie) took less time than anticipated and rather than camp at the park as intended, I headed home.



Linda's thoughts:

Highlight would be camping at Aroona Homestead. I really enjoy the history of the area and the natural beauty of the ranges around. No wonder Hans Heyson fell in love with the area.

Lowlight would be rivers running through our camp site when we were all in the laundry charging up and drying clothes.

Overall I never tire of this vast ranges area. The dry river courses with the magnificent river red gums so old and majestic, the people who live there and seem to make a living, just fantastic.

Diane's thoughts on her favourite bits of the trip:

Side Trip One: The Heysen Range had been towering over our Aroona campsite tantalizing Rob and myself: we just had to get to the top. From our campsite we plotted our course up a gully to a small saddle a little to the left of a stunning red cliff.

We set off crossing a dry grassy valley between our campsite and the towering range, then headed up a beautiful dry creek bed, delighting in the colours of the rocks and the shape of the majestic old gums. High, eroded banks were passed as we continued to climb. We were not dressed for off track bush walking: as we progressed we were scratched and pricked on our exposed limbs. There is much evidence of feral goats here and elsewhere in the Flinders Ranges and many goat tracks criss-crossed our route. The higher we got the more scrambly it got, but we clambered our way upwards.

Once on top we were delighted with the magnificent views behind us of the ABC Range. We could see our campsite below. To the west, part of the large Lake Torrens was visible. We were able to see a lovely long spur that we could use to get down quickly. It was apparent that it had been used by goats and other walkers for the same purpose. Rob's shorts did not survive the adventure and had to be put into retirement.

Side Trip Two: Rob and I did a side trip up a steep little hill behind our Acraman campsite. Once again this was mountain goat territory and a steep climb up a ridge took us to an exposed serrated rocky top where we had a 360° view. Rob startled two goats and two (perhaps rare yellow-footed rock) wallabies. We could see and hear our companions back at camp. After a toast of Rob's favourite vintage rum (OLD GOLD CHOCOLATE) we went down an extremely steep rocky gully on the face of the hill back to camp.



Tuesday, 6 pm EST, September 9: the Battle of the Bistros

In the south east corner—Macey's Bistro

As many of the Committee had gone to the Flinders Ranges, a group of nine Warrnambool Bushwalkers substituted the club meeting with dinner at the Macey's. After we all braved the crowds at the servery, we enjoyed tucking into our tucker, whilst indulging in a stimulating conversation. Attendees were Di P, Jim, Gwenda & David, Graeme, Helen R, Helen A, Dina (reporter) and Garry (interloper).

In the north west corner—Poddy Dodgers Bistro

The Poddy Dodgers Bistro at Wilpena Pound provided adequate protection from the second heavy downpour for the trip. Transition from Happy Hour to meal required no need to move seats. A certain homogeneity in menu choice: the males (Lothar, Mike and Rob) had the *Pint and Parmi* special while the females (Linda, Liz and Diane) had the fish.

Winner: Who knows? There was too much eating and talking to keep score.



Sunday August 24: Around Childers Cove

The walks to the west and the east (in particular) of Childers Cove are a couple of Lothar's favourites. Unfortunately, this year, they had to be cut short because of the extensive weather damage to the sand dunes and beach access routes. Still Graeme, Helen, Linda, Lothar and Mabel had a great walk. And plenty of time to visit Cheeseworld afterwards!

Trip Reports

Saturday September 13: Princetown to Twelve Apostles and return

The walk looked like a non-event until our tea at Macy's and suddenly we had two car-loads going! Numbers swelled from Graeme and me to include Helen R, Dina, Jim and David. As we set off I made a comment regarding snakes and shortly thereafter Helen R made a comment that some 'kind' person had left a rubber snake at the side of the track! However, the rubber snake had a different idea about its location and speedily slid off into the bushes—a very glossy black snake, possibly red-bellied. The rest of the walk to Princetown was uneventful.

After lunch at the bridge we walked back. I always enjoy this as the scenery is more dramatic from this viewpoint. An enjoyable coffee was had at Port Campbell. Thanks to all for an eventful walk.

Helen A

September 20–21: Skipton–Ballarat Rail Trail

Marg (leader), Diane, Gwenda, Helen, Jim, Rob and Steve

The plan had been to camp at Smythesdale. We compromised and met at Linton where four of us booked in to the Hotel Linton. The ride to Skipton (21 km) took an ascending gradient through gum and pine forests, crossing a couple of bridges, then descending to Pittong where China clay kaolin is processed. There is a sleepover for trail users at the Pittong "station". A leisurely picnic was taken beside Mt Emu Creek at Skipton.

On the return, good views of distant familiar peaks were a backdrop to the patchwork of green and gold crops. We were close to Linton and had crossed the second bridge when Jim hit a deep rut and clipped a stationary bike. Bruising and a grazed knee will heal, but the painful dislocated shoulder needs treatment.

The evening meal at the pub was delicious. Steve and Di rode to and from Smythesdale—84 km. Thanks for the good bike riding. Good wishes Jim from us all.

Marg



Saturday September 27: Mt Rosea

Walkers: Coralie (leader), Lothar and Rob

Arriving at Borough Huts, we drove straight to the old ford to cross the Fyans Creek and start the ascent to Mt Rosea. Since our last walk in this region, the Cathcart Chislett Memorial Track had been cleared and in places, re-routed thus avoiding the belly flops over large, fallen trees. The climb was still tough and Lothar, Rob and I needed our tracking skills to keep to the trail.

Just below Sanderson Gap we came across a newly cleared, wide track and followed it on our upwards climb. Curious as to its origin, we determined to follow it on the way down.

We lunched at a scenic spot, then climbed to Mt Rosea's summit. Feeling fine we opted to take the track to the Mt Rosea car park. Here we descended a short distance along the one way road to Silverband Falls, turning off at the Burma Track. No track maintenance had been undertaken on it since the land slips, so this part of the walk was more interesting than the usual trudge along a fire-break.

Eventually we picked up the new track and followed it down to its end at the car park at Borough Huts. Although this section was long and we were tiring by this stage, some parts provided the best wildflower-viewing of the day. The various bush peas, grevilleas, tea-trees and wattles took turns in spectacular and extensive displays. At Fyans Creek a new foot bridge ensured we didn't have to risk wet feet by rock-hopping across. We piled into the car thankful no car shuffle was required after the estimated 25 km walk and made it home just before dark.

Coralie



The new track, a Boronia, a Grevillea, and the new bridge over Fyans Creek