

Trip Reports

Sunday January 11th: Fitzroy River to Surry River

Participants: Lothar, Jim, Helen and Mabel

This walk was part of a fund-raising event for the Narrawong community. It was very well organised and all participants were well supported throughout the 14 km. We started by getting a bus to the mouth of Fitzroy River. The mouth was open and there was quite a bit of water flowing so it was off with the boots and socks to wade across. We were really lucky with the day being overcast and having a tail wind.



We made a slight detour to visit the skull of a whale that beached itself many years ago and finished the walk in the same position as last year. We stayed at the football oval for a while afterwards enjoying the festivities and, of course, being true to our club by tasting the food on offer.

Mabel



Portland to Penola: an Aussie Camino

The Standard had two articles during December [15th and 30th] spruiking the development of an Aussie Camino. Starting at Portland, its route follows the GSWW to Nelson and then goes along lesser roads in South Australia via Port MacDonnell and Mt Gambier to its end at Penola. Details of upcoming treks and the route are at www.aussiecamino.org/wordpress/. Another long distance walk that covers the coastal portion of this route is described at federationtrack.com.au.

Trip Reports

Saturday January 24th: The coast around Flaxmans Hill

Participants: Rob (leader), Helen A, Gwenda, David and Dina

David provided an exemplary service in driving us to and from the start and finish at the end of Mathesons Rd. After a 2 km stroll westwards along the management track, we headed down to the beach. The rare patches of firm sand were relished—walking eastward along the beach was more of a slog than usual, though the sea spray and cliffs provided a pleasant backdrop on a pleasant day.

The major “challenge” was reached spot on low tide, but occasionally the waves reached the bottom of the cliff. Since Plan B involved a steep ascent back to the cars, we decided to keep to the beach and had no problems rounding the headland with dry feet. Unfortunately the second obstacle would have involved wet feet, and so Plan C returned us to the management track. We went a kilometre or so further east to look at a drilling rig and the view we would have seen had we kept to the beach. We noted with no interest whatsoever the start of the once-it-was-a-track to Flaxmans Hill. A stop at the *Matchbox* en route home restored the fluid balance.

Rob



Saturday January 31st: Tower Hill

Participants: Rob (leader), Kate, David, Viviane and Lothar

We met at the entrance to Tower Hill on the Princes Highway to be confronted by a dead cow from an accident the previous night. After walking down the entrance road we started along Lake Edge Track just after a bus load of tourists. They shushed us as we passed them and several kangaroos.

We left the lake at the Wagon Bay track, went past the Visitors Centre and partly bush bashed to the exit isthmus. Nibbles were had along the Shine Springs Track. A track was followed up to the cliff line below the rim where a foot pad took us the rest of the way to the top at Cairn Lookout. An easy stroll along tracks by the rim took us back to the cars. The rains came just after we started driving home.

Rob



February 3–4: Walking the Camperdown to Timboon Rail Trail

On Tuesday 3rd February Linda, Helen A, Ann (a prospective member) and myself set off for Camperdown, via Timboon. Our first port of call in Camperdown was, of course, the Cobb Loaf Bakery! After fuelling up, we started our 18 km walk to Cobden. The first 11 km along roadways was a little hard on the feet, but views of Lake Bullen Merri and Lake Gnotuk made it all worth while. Onto the rail trail at Naroghid and 7 km into Cobden. We checked into the very friendly Thompson's Hotel in Cobden and selected our own rooms (\$25 for a comfortable bed!) A delicious meal and pleasant evening was held there.

The next day, Coralie and Mabel joined us at Cobden for the 23 km walk to Timboon. Our first stop for the day was morning tea at the Glenfyne Station site. Then on to Timboon, with only one very scary tiger snake incident for Linda (ask her about it!) and me. We walked the rest of the way still shaking. The Timboon Distillery is always a welcome sight.

Gwenda



February 11–14: Lake Corangamite paddle

Paddlers: Steve and Diane

Day 1: After organising a hay shed with the caretaker to park the car, we two paddlers wheeled kayaks to the edge of Lake Corangamite. Getting out through the mud was difficult, but we eventually set off across the lake to the eastern shore. Following the rocky eastern shore, we found a break in the rocks to pull our kayaks through the mud to make camp for the night.

Day 2: Navigating through rock stacks, we rounded Herring Point and continued easterly and camped on a lovely sandy beach.

Day 3: Crossing to the western shore was difficult at times as the water was very shallow until we rounded the cliffs of Vaughn Island. An approaching storm caused us to seek shelter in a cave where we sat the storm out. We then continued through rock stacks where rough weather forced one of the kayakers onto the rocks, yet we continued through driving rain and crashing waves to Oliver's Springs to make camp in the bush.

Day 4: Towing the kayaks down Oliver's Springs we walked into the lake until we could find deep enough water to paddle. The day's weather was ideal for paddling as we continued to the north. We rounded a rocky cape and followed a NW bearing back to our starting point. The scenery was magnificent, bird life prolific, paddling pleasant, dragging kayaks through the mud CHALLENGING!!! and completing a circumnavigation of Lake Corangamite satisfying.



Trip Reports

Warrnambool Bushwalkers Clean Up! — Thursday February 26 and Sunday March 1

Two options were available for the Clean Up Australia working bee in 2015. Thursday evening's crew walked from Thunder Point to a rocky headland approximately half way to Levy's Point and on Sunday another group cleaned the Levy's Point end of the beach.

Mabel, Dina, Jim and Coralie toiled in the pleasant, evening sun on Thursday to rid the beach of its usual assortment of rope, plastic and bottles. However, we were pleased to note that there was far less rubbish than the previous year.

On Sunday, Colin & Helen R, Di P, Jim and Coralie donned gloves and humped the provided bags along the beach to the rocks to remove unwanted debris from the western end of our allotted area.

Back in the car park we sorted our pile into 'recyclables' and 'rubbish' and loaded bags into cars for the journey to the waste transfer station. Another group who had been assigned the car park left their rubbish for collection near our 'depot' so we included as much of this in our haul to the tip as we could. A couple of bulky items such as a porcelain toilet bowl we left for the Clean Up Coordinator to remove later in the day.



A big thanks to all who participated in this community service activity.

*Coralie,
Organiser for the
Club's site*



Before



Experiment 32:

Effect of three word slogans

Method: I photographed subjects before and after calling out "Lothar's vanilla slice".

Results: noticeable changes in subjects' expressions are evident in the photos.

Ethics report: no vanilla slices were harmed in this experiment, unfortunately.

Janice 14-03-15

After



March 14–15: Overnight walk from Princetown to Devils Kitchen and back

Expedition members: Janice (leader), Rob (scribe); day-tripping well-wishers: Mabel, Linda, Dina, Lothar and Helen A

The party met at 2 pm at the Princetown Recreation Reserve. Mabel had brought a fruit bun and four others to accompany us to the campsite at Devils Kitchen. The well-wishers left just before it started to rain; we availed ourselves of the shelter in company with seven other intrepid campers, the youngest just 3 years old. The expected fight for occupancy of the prestigious *Site 8* did not eventuate: the deserted large tent that occupied it has since been reported to Parks Victoria.

Next morning we strolled to the Gables along the inland route and returned along the beach. Janice had thoughtfully arranged for the tide to be low. Since we reached our packs much too early for our planned lunch, we trundled off, arriving back at the cars and heading our respective ways at 1 pm. Some of the sights and animals seen *en route* are below.



Trip Reports

Battersby as a base camp, and 40 km walking by the Glenelg: March 20–22

Participants: Mabel & Helen A (co-leaders), Rob, David

Battersbys camp site is a beautiful place, located in the bush on the Glenelg River with its sparse amenities. We had booked both of the two sites which comprised of a toilet, two picnic tables, two fire places, and water fed into a tank from the roof of the toilet.

By 4 pm on Friday we had set up camp and then, with a car-shuffle, started the short walk from the Post & Rail road junction back to our camp. This five km walk was a most interesting one – passing four echidnas, and the midriff of a rather large snake, which we did quickly without disturbing it and finding out its length.

Back at camp, after replenishing our reserves with bikkies & cheese and a glass of wine/beer, a flurry of activity began in preparing our dinner. It was interesting to see the different types of camp-cookers used by the four group members. The fisherman of our party failed to provide fish for our evening meal but thought the following evening a strong possibility.

We were visited by a very noisy and colourful flock of gang gang parrots and Rob identified the many birds which visited us – including noisy scrub wrens, blue wrens, yellow-breasted robins and a golden whistler. Our camp fire gave some warmth against the chilly night air as we gazed into the clear star-filled sky searching for satellites. It was a noisy night – with possums screeching and “things” crashing through the bush. We heard the sounds of a fight, possibly against a large feral cat we had seen and a possum.



The following cold morning greeted us with dew and fog, but that soon disappeared as the sun rose. Another car shuffle down river for a 20-km walk from the river end of the North Nelson Track back to camp. It was a beautiful walk and the scenery spectacular. We saw plenty of kangaroos but no echidnas and happily no snakes. We had lunch at Pattersons Canoe Camp, supplemented by some walnuts found at the base of the large walnut tree. Walking-time was 4.25 hours for the 20 km. Again no fish for dinner; the members reluctantly prepared their own camp food. Another cool night was eased by the camp fire and more star gazing.



We were greeted on Sunday morning with heavy fog and some comments were heard that we should have stayed in our beds longer. Slowly we got moving and by the time we had packed up and were leaving, another beautiful day was on its way. We drove to the Moleside landing and walked the 13 km downriver to our waiting spare vehicle at the Post & Rail junction.



In summary, it was a most enjoyable long weekend in beautiful surroundings along the magnificent Glenelg River. I look forward to walking in the same area again.

David

Warrnambool to Port Fairy: Wednesday, March 25

Walkers: Lothar (leader), Mabel and Rob; transport: VW, legs, PT >

We met outside the TAFE at 8 am and Lothar ferried us to the start at Thunder Point. As always, Port Fairy looked far, far away. It was a perfect day for the annual epic: no rain, overcast, pleasant temperature, a light side wind, firm sand and a low tide. We made good time, with Killarney for lunch, and Port Fairy 100 minutes after that. The usual congregation of gulls were near Levy's Point, and the usual flocks of small water birds near Killarney. We met four lots of horses. What's that blue dot ahead occupied our thoughts for a while. Coffee and cake before our \$2.20 bus trip back to the start. A grand day out, to quote Wallace and Gromit.



Rob

PS: Lothar reported afterwards that having one's car keys fall out of one's pocket onto a bus seat has an amazingly recuperative effect and converts the hobbling to the car into a sprint back to the bus upon finding one is key-deficient.



Jimmys Creek towards Durd Durd: Saturday, March 28

Walkers: Mabel (leader), Diane (driver), Lothar and Rob

Twas 6:30 when this happy but just awakened group of four set off from Warrnambool on Mabel's training walk. Walking started at 8:20.

"Upwards, ever upwards" was rarely contradicted. We had a reasonable view, but most of the mountain tops were cloud-covered, as indeed were we by the time we reached the nibbles stop at the Stockyard. A few flowers, but nothing like the glorious carpet of last Spring. We continued on, up the really steep part until we reached a high point near enough to the top. The view from it of the surrounding cloud was unsurpassed, with not a mountain in sight. Mabel had done the important part of her trial, there was little point in going on further, and so lunch was eaten back at the Stockyard. The view improved after lunch, ie we went below the cloud level. Coffee and cake at Dunkeld and home by five. Thank you Mabel, thank you Diane.

Rob

