

Mouth2mouth: Sunday 13 January

Participants: Coralie, Helen A, Jim, Ken, Linda, Lothar (leader), Mabel, Mary, Rob, Rosalie, Shirley, and visitors Jack, Lorraine and Rowan

We had a great club turnout for the annual Fitzroy River to Surry River 14 km walk. The 7 am start only bothered Lorraine and Rowan, but gave the rest of us plenty of time to drive to Narrawong, register for the fundraising event, and get on a bus to the start of the walk.

You couldn't ask for a more perfect walking day. Not hot, no rain, a breeze on our backs, and of course pleasant company! We still had the hassle though of having to ford the Fitzroy River mouth.

In the tradition of most previous M2M walks we came in last. Our excuse is that we always go into the sand dunes to view the whale skull...and water a few plants. However, we excelled ourselves this year. Lorraine and Rowan started much later with the runners and were so far back from the rest of us that they we couldn't even see them.

There were fewer food stalls this year but enough for me to have sausages and a flat white. Others indulged in Timboon ice creams, etc.

We sat in the shade eating our lunches and indulgences and listened to live music...and award presentations and speeches. Warrnambool Bushwalkers even got a plug for supporting the event. Our group size of 14 was enough to win us the corporate Woolworths prize: a tray of fruit.

But that was just the start. Coralie won one of the Spot Prizes, and Linda won a major prize with accommodation! Afterwards we divvied up the tray of goodies and drove back to Warrnambool.

Thanks to all for a FRUITFUL day out!

Lothar



The Piccaninny and Mount Sturgeon, Saturday 19 January

Lapping up a glorious day: Rob 📷, Rosalie 📷,
Ross, Lothar, Dina, Coralie and Mabel

The predicted sunny 27 degrees or so did eventuate, but was tempered with reasonably frequent breezes. After the usual purchases at Dunkeld we drove to The Piccaninny car park to start our walk to Mount Sturgeon. Follow the track with a detour to The Piccaninny says all you need to know about the navigation. Distance walked of 9 km was slightly less than indicated by signposts but took a little longer than expected. Too much talking perhaps?

Lunch was in the shade at the summit of Sturgeon. Afternoon ice treats at Dunkeld. Only a few plants were in bloom, the gums being by far the main exception. Highlight of the trip was at the start in the Kepler St car park: a koala wandered across the road from the James Swan Reserve, climbed one of the street trees beside us, and settled down for a nap at its top.

Rob



Tower Hill: Saturday 2 February

Grampians: Marg (leader), Graeme, Greg, Julie, Jenny and Harry; Warrnambool: Lothar, Jim, Coralie 📷, David, Rob 📷, Maxine, (ex) Sandra

Well Marg couldn't very well lead a Grampians Bushwalking Club walk to Tower Hill without inviting us too, could she? We met at the Information Centre and promptly ticked off "seen a pair of koalas". Before lunch we did one of Lothar's circuits to the north of the Centre and, after lunch, a circuit south of the Centre. Walks over, we scuttled off home while the Grampians mob went paddling at Killarney. A glorious day for walking. Very pleasant company. A repeat in July is planned when the wattles are out.

Rob



"I've seen an echidna the last two times I've visited Tower Hill", said Jim, condemning the walk to be echidna-free. But no, this little cutie was burrowing away in one of tracks by the lake, oblivious to the phalanx of cameras pointing its way.



East of Childers Cove: Saturday 9 February

Fools: Rob 📷, Rosalie 📷, Lothar, Dina 📷

For a while substantial rain meant this report would have been titled “Trip to KFC Car Park”. But after we delayed half an hour, the weather had improved. We set off on our adventure, left the car at Stanhope Bay, and headed east. “There’s a bit of gully near the start” reminded Lothar. As indeed there is, always a little tricky, but especially so after rain. Rob slid down with possibly unintended speed. Dina tried an interesting body slide. Not quite sure how Rosalie successfully descended, because Lothar prudently was at the top refusing to come down until somebody proved that it was possible to get out of the gully. That done we were re-united and proceeded to our first cliff top view where we were greeted by an extremely strong gale. We retreated a little below the crest of the ridge and continued east, spotting the remains of a small boat that had capsized a week earlier in Childers Cove. Our second attempt at a headland was met with not quite as strong a wind but none-the-less we propped. We abandoned the rest of the walk, headed back to the northern boundary track, mastered the decent and ascent of the gully with aplomb, and congratulated ourselves on completing our 3 km 90 minute walk. Except for those two bursts of ferocious wind, it had been good weather: parkas on once for a few minutes, sun screen needed for a few minutes, and a pleasant temperature.

Rob



South Warrnambool Walk: Saturday 16 February

Walkers: Gwenda, Helen, Rosalie, Jim, Mary, Kim (prospective member), visitors Merle, Robert, Terry, Maureen and Ewan

- met at the kiosk,
- around Lake Pertobe,
- over the Merri River behind the Woollen Mill,
- down Schnapper Lane to pick up Hugo,
- across to the Sewerage Treatment plant,
- along the path to Shelley Beach,
- back to Thunder Point and the footbridge on Viaduct Road,
- straight down Pertobe Road for coffee at the Kiosk.

A walk of 9 km over 2 hours. A very pleasant morning!!

Gwenda



Glenelg River Walk: 23 & 24 February

Walkers: David (📷, leader), Ken, Shirley, Mabel, Dina, Rob 📷

On Saturday, the six of us met at the Heywood Bakery at 9.30 am and were met with lots of activity in the town, as they were having a local festival and truck show. After our cuppa and purchases for lunch, we proceeded to the Glenelg River to do our car shuffle.

The river mouth was blocked so the river was about 600 mm higher than normal, with water lapping the deck on some of the jetties. We commenced our walk at Sapling Creek at 11.30 am. The GSSW path was in good condition and the new viewing platform at Weeping Rock gave a beautiful view of the bend in the river. The path to Popeye's Landing was overgrown and the picnic area was in poor condition, so we did not use that for our lunch spot. It was only a 9 km walk from Sapling Creek to our campsite at Battersbys and this gave us plenty of time to set up our camp and relax by the river.

Bird watching and cups of tea were popular activities, and Ken and Shirley set up their awning overlooking the river from their vehicle providing us with welcome shade. A cryptic crossword gave some brains a work-out. At dusk, we were further entertained by a large flock of gang gang cockatoos. Our group had the camp site to ourselves, giving us the undistracted beauty of the place. Later, the campfire added to the bush atmosphere under a bright clear star-lit sky.

The sound of kookaburras greeted us at sunrise.

After another car-shuffle, we left Battersbys at 9 am and headed towards Moleside. We had a welcome rest at Pritchards. After passing Saunders' Landing we stopped at Pannican Bend in the shade for lunch. By now the day was hot, having exceeded the forecast temperature of 28 degrees by 9 degrees. We continued around Wild Dog Bend, which has a lovely secluded camp site and jetty, and then the final 3 km to Moleside Canoe Camp, completing the 19 km walk. It was a hard but enjoyable walk. Tank water was available at the various camps and some of us used purifier tablets to top-up supplies to make the water safe.

A well-deserved ice-cream at Heywood topped off an enjoyable and memorable weekend along the Glenelg River.

David



Mallee Camp to Yellow Rock: Saturday 2 March

Enjoyable as this walk is, given the extreme temperature that was predicted, it was only prudent to cancel it.

Clean Up Australia—bushwalkers and a dog clean up Wangoom Road: Sunday 3 March

Participants: Coralie 📷, Rob, Ken 📷, Gwenda, Kim, Jim, Rosalie & Blue

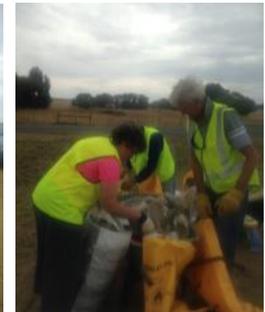
After Saturday's heat, milder temperatures were much appreciated for the annual Clean Up Australia working bee. This year we decided a stretch of the Wangoom Road between Aberline and Horne Roads was worthy of our efforts. This area proved very worthy, in fact.

As soon as the signs warning the traffic of our presence were erected the clean-up started. People donned vests and gloves, grabbed collection bags, and headed out along the road. We didn't have to go far to fill our bags. Even before we left the corner of Aberline and Wangoom Road we had a sizable collection of rubbish which included a letter box, a doll's pram, and a toddler's 'play' station.

Further up the road Gwen collected a mattress, Ken found a bright red bicycle frame, and Rob was rapidly filling up his wheelbarrow. Bottles, cans, and fast food containers formed most of the rest of the load. Before we left, we sorted out the recyclables as best we could, secured the rubbish at the site to be collected the next day, then re-formed at Bohemia for coffee.

Coralie

Post note: Some 'community minded' citizen reported the rubbish to the police as 'dumped'. I was visited by the local constabulary to "please explain" that afternoon.



Tower Hill circumnavigation: Saturday 9 March

Rob and David, accompanied at various times by a wallaby, some grey fantails, a powerline full of crows, a rabbit, oodles of kangaroos, an emu and his three “teenagers”, a paddock full of masked lapwings, and a white faced heron, walked around the crater rim—one of Tower Hill’s best walks—on a glorious morning with the many water birds barely ruffling the mirror-smooth lake.



Twelve Apostles to Princetown: Saturday 16 March

Walkers: Helen A (leader), Linda, Mary, Mabel and Rob

This favourite was done in perfect weather and, as usual, was most enjoyable. Linda only planned to do a one-way walk. However, by the time we reached the Gellibrand River the disease had spread through the party.

Highlights, beside the wonderful views, were some black cockatoos and a pair of gaudy new sneakers. We had lunch at Princetown. Any thoughts of a post-lunch walk along the river to the coast were dismissed because the water level was

extremely high, and certainly not because we pined for ice creams in Port Campbell.

Rob



Werribee Gorge Walk: 23–24 March

[parkweb.vic.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf_file/0011/719291/Werribee-Gorge-State-Park-Visitor-Guide.pdf](http://parkweb.vic.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/719291/Werribee-Gorge-State-Park-Visitor-Guide.pdf)

Walkers: Mabel, Coralie (📷, Sun), David (📷, leader)

On Saturday, Mabel and I met at a Bacchus Marsh bakery at 10.30 am and had the necessary caffeine reviver before we drove the short distance to the Gorge.

We commenced walking at 11.30 on the Circuit Walk track, which was listed as 10 km long and should take 4.5 hours. About a third of the walk was along the gorge and Werribee River.

From the Gate Carpark we had a steep uphill walk until we reached the abandoned homestead of Thomas and Eliza Hanson who selected this land in 1871 to grow potatoes. Even though the ground is rich volcanic soil, the area is stony and dry and the venture failed. Further on, the Eastern Lookout gave an excellent view of the Gorge and the Island, which was our walk the following day.

Continuing along the plateau for about another km, we were given another excellent view of the Gorge at the Western Lookout where we could see the river down below us. From here we wound our way down to the river and could see the water channel and sluice gate which supplied water to Bacchus Marsh. The Werribee River flows south-east from the Wombat State Forest near Ballan before dropping through the Werribee Gorge to Bacchus Marsh and then flowing into Port Phillip Bay at Werribee South. The Lerderderg River, which flows through the Lerderderg State Park near Blackwood, is a major tributary that joins the river at Bacchus Marsh. We walked mostly through dry open forest.



The river was a welcome site and it was flowing nicely, even at this time of year. It made a pleasant walk along the tree-lined river. Parts of this section made interesting walking—clinging onto a guide rope as we edged along a narrow ledge on a rocky face. Meikles Point picnic area was a popular spot for visitors.

Another steep rise to the carpark ended our walk for Day 1. The GPS on my phone recorded us walking 9 km which took 3 hrs plus the time for our short lunch.

The following day, Coralie joined us to do the Centenary Walk. This walk started with a steep uphill section and then down to the dry Myrning Creek and then a hard uphill trek to the summit of the Island, which is a hill that has been weathered to a volcanic plateau and now includes the W James Whyte Island Reserve. Thousands of trees have been planted in the Reserve and general area by

Conservation Volunteers. We could clearly see the buildings of the Melbourne CBD. By the time we returned to the carpark, we had trekked 9 km taking 2¾ hours.

Both our walks were good work-outs but were pleasing with interesting geology, numerous birdlife and good weather. It's a popular place and we met many other walkers.

David



Back of Lorne: 29–31 March

Walkers for this combined weekend with the Bayside Bushwalking Club: Chris S, Coralie G, Hilary J, Ian M, Jeff M, Jenny L, Kate W, Lothar S, Marj K, Max W, Pamela H, Peter L, Rosalie M, Ruth B

We all stayed at the Cumberland Caravan Park, a few km west of Lorne. Coralie and Ruth tented while the rest of us stayed in cabins. With the park on generators and not connected to the electricity grid we didn't have items like toasters or microwaves or electric kettles or multiple power points or bright lights...but we managed ok.

On Friday night we had a BYO BBQ, and on Saturday we all went out for dinner at the Lorne Hotel. I thought the predicted bad weather was going to put a spanner in the walking works but there was only a minor hiccup and we seemed to take it all in our stride. The back of Lorne is a

fantastic area for walking whatever the weather: lots of ferns, birds, frogs, tall timbers and waterfalls, No leeches!

On Saturday we walked for about 17 km from 9 am to 4 pm and visited Sheoak Falls, Castle Rock, Lower Kalimna Falls, and Swallow Cave. Lunch was at the Sheoak Picnic Area where a cheeky magpie twice snatched food from Kate's hand! A squall hit us at Castle Rock and we spent the remainder of the walk in our raincoats. We didn't get that much rain though.



On Sunday we only walked 10 km from 9 am to 12:30 pm. Minor drizzle at times. Starting at the Sheoak Picnic Area we walked to the giant tree, Henderson Falls, the Canyon, Phantom Falls, and Allen Reservoir. At the canyon I took the obligatory video of everyone climbing out of the depths of the earth. Phantom Falls lived up to its name as there was no water falling, presumably due to recent works at Allen Reservoir and the non release of water. AR was almost full and the 2018 works on the retaining wall looked excellent.

We finished the walk at QDos Arts and enjoyed many refreshments and good company until it was time for farewells. Thanks to all for a splendid weekend! And many thanks to Jeff for organising the BBC crew.

Lothar

