

## Wyperfeld: 26–29 September August

Participants: Coralie, Mike, Liz, Lothar, Luci, Peter, Ken, Shirley

Most of the photos from the weekend are in the October newsletter but just in case you wanted to read a bit more about the weekend...here is a summary:

While you had rain and cold weather down south we had warm sunny days and mostly starry nights.

We all arrived at the Wonga campground on Thursday afternoon and set up camp amongst the trees. Luci's twin cab with a tray was ideal for collecting firewood and it wasn't long before wood had been collected and a fire lit. Then we had drinks and nibbles

followed by a BBQ as we all sat around the fire. The stars were magical. Peter made us all envious. He had an Optus phone...and he had good reception. Telstra users had zilch.

Friday morning's walk, after egg/bacon/cheese muffins, was to a dry Lake Brambruk, returning via Mt Mattingley. After lunch, it was the Desert Loop walk. That evening we had paella followed by fruit salad.

For Saturday we had muesli, fruit salad and toast for brekky. The long loop walk (Tyakil nature loop through to the Desert walk carpark via the Western lookout dune) was shortened with vehicular support at both ends. The portable shower proved to be a hit. Dinner that night was roast lamb with many many many vegetables followed again by fruit salad.

On Sunday we downed pancakes and toast and packed up. We drove straight back without the scenic drive option, but six of us met for lunch at Jaz in Horsham on the way home.

Many thanks to all for your help and for making it a very entertaining weekend!

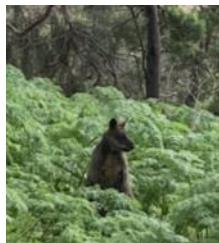
Lothar



## Tower Hill Meetup: Sunday 6 October

In anticipation of a large crowd, given the ‘likes’ the Tower Hill Meetup gathered on the two Facebook pages (Warrnambool Bushwalkers and Bushwalking Victoria), the club’s leaders and whips were all ready to go well before the appointed hour of 10 am.

Three non-members registered for the walk. Was the commencement of daylight saving time or the wild overnight wind to blame? Finally, we decided to combine all offered walks and go with the visitors’ choice of *Tower Hill Discovery Walk*, led by Lothar. We ambled along a route similar to the Christmas in July trek. This took in lake views, the Last Volcano and some gentle slopes.



A wallaby obligingly posed for photos in the hemlock and as we returned to the Visitor’s Centre, the male emu appeared with his brood of eight chicks. A tiny turtle was spotted struggling across the lawn and Dina supplied her watch for a size comparison in the photo.

Afterwards we lunched at the Garden Café in Koroit where soup and meat pies were the preferred options.

Later that week the BWV Office Manager, Isolde (who had composed our BWV post), rang and made a few helpful suggestions to increase participation, should we attempt this type of activity in the future.

Thanks to Rosalie, Lothar, Jim, Mary, Gwenda, Graeme and Dina for their assistance in running this experiment.

*Coralie*



## Lake Pertobe ↔ Levy's Point: Saturday 19 October

Stalwarts: Rosalie (leader), Rob, Lothar, Kim, Ken, and Jim

Despite the forecast of inclement weather, six of us met at the Beach Kiosk and waited for a short shower to diminish before setting out across the Pertobe precinct for the rail trail. In sunshine, we walked beside the Merri River, admiring a new viewing platform and new foot bridge as well as a cattle egret teasing magpies, swans, and various ducks. We reached the track into Levy's beach carpark in an hour, where Lothar and Jim decided to return along the trail rather than battle soft sand on a not very low tide.

So four of us started east along the beach on reasonably firm sand up to the first rocky point (noting hooded plover, red-necked stints, pied and sooty oystercatchers, two species of gulls, a kestrel and ...). The waves encroaching the third rocky outcrop sent us clambering for higher ground as the rain started battering us. We stayed high and struggled at times through the scrub before descending to the beach until just before Shelly Beach. Then it was along the track to the turnoff that took us past the sewerage works, and via road and parkland to the Kiosk for refreshments. We enjoyed a modest adventure in not-so-inclement weather and Ken recorded 26 species of birds!

Rosalie



## Saints and Sinners weekend: 12–13 October

This year 17 intrepid bike riders from our area participated in the Saints and Sinners. On Saturday, about 80 riders set off on the 44 km from St Arnaud to Bealiba for a sumptuous lunch provided by the Bealiba CWA ladies before another 44 km back to St Arnaud, via Emu. In the evening, we met at the Liberty Hall, where we were served a two-course slap-up meal, after playing some games. (Liberty Hall is so named because after the Second World War it was a corset factory in St Arnaud, under the name of Liberty Corsets. Bit of an oxymoron really.)

Sunday morning, more food. A hearty breakfast of cereals, followed by eggs and bacon, and toast with either tea or coffee. Pumping a few more pound in the tyres we set off at about 9.30 towards Wycheproof to Coonooer Bridge Hall for a water and fruit stop, and then back to St Arnaud, again at the Liberty Hall, for yet more food. After we all received a Certificate of Participation we climbed into our respective cars and drove home. A most enjoyable weekend.

Mike



## Pinnacle Circuit: 3 November

Participants: Coralie, Graeme, Jim, Ken E, Ken F, Lothar (leader), Marg

The plan was to organise a walk and focus on reducing our carbon footprint at the same time. The Sunday bus to Halls Gap seemed ideal, and most members could use their seniors vouchers to get a free trip. The downside seemed to be the extra 2 hours that the bus trip would take compared to cars, and the possibility that we'd miss the bus for the return journey if we were too slow on the track.

We were expecting 2 mm of rain but the day was sunny and a bit overcast. There was a strong wind close to the cliffs but we didn't spend a lot of time there.

On the way up we ordered ahead and had coffees waiting for our arrival at Dunkeld. Our only coffees for the day as it turned out. We arrived in Halls Gap at about 11:15 am and were met by Marg and Ken who'd driven from Ararat. We were underway by 11:30.

The place was jumping with Melbourne Cup long weekenders. The whole track was also exceedingly busy throughout the day particularly on the downhill side towards Wonderland carpark. Lots and lots of families. There were many bottlenecks to be negotiated (in silent street and the canyon) and I had to be pushy at times to get past other walkers so that we could keep our pace up. Over the years the club has done this walk many times and today it didn't disappoint. Spectacular scenery all day.

We only stayed at the Pinnacle for 20 minutes to have our lunch.

Heaps of people were doing the same. We returned to Halls Gap with 25 minutes to spare. It wasn't enough time to have coffees nor to wait in line for ice creams, but was ok for refreshments from the service station, and for a rest before the bus came. We waved goodbye to Marg and Ken for the 3 hour return journey.

Many thanks to all for a great walk!

Lothar



## Twelve Apostles to Princetown: Saturday 9 November

On a very windy, but almost dry day, four walkers started the day by checking out the view point at the 12 Apostles, where thundering waves added to the already amazing vistas at this site, (further enhanced by the relative paucity of other tourists). We then followed the Great Ocean Walk's track to Princetown, diverting occasionally so Rob could check out the access to the beaches for future walks. To avoid car shuffles, I turned back westwards at the halfway mark, whilst the rest of the group continued to Princetown. Still avoiding the masses, we lunched at Peterborough on our way home. Thanks to Rob, Kim and Rosalie for a very pleasant morning's walk.

Dina

*Thanks to Dina for nobly walking into the strong westerly wind back to the Info Centre so the rest of us could continue our walk. We spent a minute too long looking at a GOW info board to beat the rain before we arrived at Princetown. Incidentally, for the armchair walker, Google streetscape now covers almost the entire walk.*





## GSSW—Cobboboonee to Cut Out: Saturday 16 November

Walkers: Rob, Lothar, Mabel, Rosalie, Kim

A 7:15 start to accommodate the dog-walker saw us at the Heywood Bakery an hour later. After 20 more minutes driving, we left one car at the Surrey Ridge Picnic Ground, piled into the other car, and drove it to near the Cobboboonee Camp where it too was abandoned.



No navigational challenges for the walk back to Cut Out Camp. No altitudinal challenges either. The weather was ideal for walking, 15°, sometimes sunny, sometimes not. This part of the GSSW goes through open forest, not spectacular but pleasant nonetheless. Enough flowers in bloom to slow down the camera-wielders. After a 1 pm lunch at Cut Out camp, seated according to the need for a backrest, we walked the final kilometre back to the car along the GSSW to the bridge over the Surrey River then up the nature trail to the picnic ground. All that remained was retrieving a car and purchasing a cup of coffee, achieved 7 minutes before the bakery closed. Rob



## Cape Bridgewater: 6–8 December

There: Coralie, Dina, Gwenda, Jim, Kim, Linda, Lothar, Luci, Peter, Rob, Rosalie

It was a great WBW "family" weekend at the Cape Bridgewater Coastal Camp with three 3-hour walks on this picturesque coast. No rain, not too hot, no howling gales, walks were west to east ie with the wind. The downsides were the nightly calls from the rutting male koalas, and the bung oven.

Most participants rolled up on Friday afternoon, set up tents, etc, and strolled down to the kiosk for a 6 o'clock dinner.

Two cars were left at The Blowhole for the first walk, from there to the Camp/Kiosk via the seal colony. Next a lunchtime intermission at the camp where we (mostly) all tucked into giant prawns, potato salad and champagne. The afternoon's walk was from Bridgewater Lakes to the Blowholes.

We didn't tuck into the roast turkey and vegetables until 8 pm. I had been carefully putting the vegetables into the oven over a period of time and when I removed the turkey I discovered that the vegetables were all raw.

Investigations confirmed that the circuit breaker had been triggered and nothing we did could restore power to the oven. Fortunately the commercial kitchen was unlocked and the super-duper oven in it roasted the vegetables in record time. Dessert was rhubarb and yoghurt. Finally, Kris Kringle!

For Sunday's breakfast we had poached eggs, smashed avocado and smoked salmon on toast before packing everything up and heading to the Cape Nelson Lighthouse for a 10 am start. After walking to Yellow Rock we headed into Portland for lunch at the superb waterfront-located Captain's Gallery. A delicious end to a great weekend! Many thanks to all the many merry helpers who made the weekend a memorable one.

Lothar

*And of course many thanks to Lothar from all of us for making the weekend a memorable one.*



## Mt Leura & Sugarloaf: 21 December

Participants: Bob, Fiona, Jim, Linda, Lothar

As planned, we ate our lunch on the train and used the on-board catering facilities to have a cuppa. In Camperdown we were met by Bob and Fiona from Camperdown Bushwalkers who then drove us to the foot of Mt Leura/Sugarloaf and joined us in the walk.

The day was a little windy and the sun had a sting in it but the temperature was about half the 44 degrees we had had the day before. Perfect.

We spiralled up to the top of Mt Sugarloaf, took in the views, and then spiralled down to the saddle before heading up to Mt Leura. Again we took in the views and located the edges of the maar. It's a surprisingly large crater complex.

We returned to the car, a round trip of 1 hr 40 min. Then it was into town for coffees, tea and a milkshake. Afterwards we said our goodbyes to our Camperdown hosts and walked the short distance to the station.

Thank you all for a most pleasant day out!

Lothar

