

Tower Hill: Sunday 3 January

Tour guide: Lothar; tour participants: Coralie, Mabel, Rosalie and Rob

In the hope of drumming up more participants for his Sunday Tower Hill walks from a good review in the newsletter Lothar formally added this one to the activity program. The map shows the route taken, starting along the rim with views over the lake, the sea and many torpid kangaroos possibly suffering from New Year's celebrations more than us. The results of July's wattle blooms were evident as we wended our way to the information centre for an "if-it's-open" coffee: it was, but alas no power. The walk continued besides two lakes and up to Lothar's favourite view spot. A final descent to lake-level and ascent to the rim—passing several clutches of turtle eggs—completed this 3 hour tour. It was a very impressive itinerary with a wide variety of landscapes and track surfaces. The tour would have received 5 stars but for one problem, something that only became apparent on reaching the cars: one must read the fine print carefully “Lunch at Korolit somewhere [perhaps]?”. The Nursery Café was shut, some

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other shop was closed, and even if it had been opened, it seemed that Lothar had bought all its pies. Coffee was had by most somewhere but your reviewer returned home to prepare his evaluation.



Rob, whose travel was entirely at his own expense.



Levy's car park ↔ Snoopy's Bay:

Sunday 10 January

Walkers: Rosalie, Rob 📷, Kirsty 📷, Theresa, Ali, Lothar, Mary, Jim, and visitors, Mary and Tom

The proposed walk to the Cutting was changed after my belated check found that, since last April, part of the track beside Kelly's swamp was almost overgrown with knee-high vegetation and bordered by tall rushes—not suitable for a group during our moist snaky summers.

We left the car park on the official rail trail that bypasses the rendering plant: it is steep, very eroded, and slippery with gravel until it reaches the road. After following the road for about 2 km the rail trail turns right and crosses Kelly's Swamp on a causeway—halfway was a perfect place for us to stop, chat and admire the resident swans.

Then back to the road and a further 200 m back along it to the obscure opening of the pleasant and picturesque track that crosses the dunes to Snoopy's beach. There are wooden barricades at both ends of this track to stop horses and bikes.

The sun danced on the waves as we wandered back along the beach to Levy's. At the start of the dune trail from the beach to the car park, a large tiger snake crossed it on the sand above us—we diverted to another fork of the track. A nice ramble of 7 km in two hours of sunny weather.

Rosalie



Sherwood Park to Warrnambool: Saturday 16 January

Rob 📷, Dina, Rosalie 📷, Lothar and visitor Dennis covered 9.4 km in 145 minutes walking and 35 minutes talking over coffee.

Three of us were on the bus to Sherwood Park as it left at 9:10, Lothar boarded half way, and Dennis was already there. A couple of hundred metres skirting Uni buildings had us at the focus of the walk, the Hopkins River. We could follow its bank for 800 metres before being forced into suburbia and a chance to see various mansions, the loading bays of *The Good Guys* et al, and the garden plantings of the houses bordering the rail line. Once we reached Simpson St we could return to the river and follow it to Proudfoots for coffee.



Refreshed we continued downstream to the mouth, albeit thwarted from walking on sand after reaching the bridge due to the water level. A combination of the usual paved paths and less-often-trod unpaved tracks took us to the Flume level crossing. Some more suburban street walking returned us to the start, not unfortunately at a convenient time for those who needed to catch the bus. Another excuse for a coffee for them, me thinks. The occasional mild drizzle became more persistent nearer the end of the walk, the wind was in our face for much of the time, but despite all that it was pleasant walking with lots of good views of the river and Lady Bay.

Rob



Golfing practice at the old golf course



Warrnambool by train to Camperdown then bike to Warrnambool: Wednesday 20 January

A few years ago the Wednesday riding group pedalled to Camperdown. The angst and stress associated with returning home — would there be space for 10 bikes, assuming of course that there was a train — drew the obvious conclusion: train there, bike back. The only problem with that is the wind almost always comes from the west, resulting in a headwind for the whole ride. Hence, such a ride is only feasible if there is a consistent forecast for an easterly and hence tail wind — not a frequent occurrence. November 2019's attempt was thwarted by the no-show of the train. We didn't look for suitable conditions in 2020, but it was still on the bucket list. All augured well for this Wednesday — pleasant temperature, rainless-ness and east wind, and a train-availability-check at the ticket office on Tuesday.

The promise of coffee at Camperdown, lunch at Noorat, nibbles on the bank of the Hopkins at Fram, and afternoon tea at Wangoom attracted Mike, Mike, Rob, Rob, Helen, Herb and Malcolm to Warrnambool station at 9 am. Mike and Mike had even bought their tickets before the sign lit up “train replaced by [an implicit bicycle unfriendly] bus”. They say that those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it!

Plan B was put into action. We stopped at Bunnings for Herb to buy some sunnies while Helen phoned the Wangoom store for sandwiches to be made at the only place that could provide morning tea and food on our ride to Childers Cove. Not a bad second prize, as the picture from our lunch spot looking over Murnane Bay shows, but the mind really does boggle at V/line's consistent inability to do what it is meant to do. What are the odds on third time lucky?

Rob





Glenelg River Gorge: Saturday 23 January

Walkers: Rob 📷, David T, Rosalie and Kirsty 📷

With 36° predicted, Sunday's walk was cancelled. A big tick—it reached 41°. But Saturday was only 29°, just right for our pleasant 15 km 5 hour walk along this section of the GSWW, the club's first interstate trip for a while. We were each, of course, laden down with a permit to pass through SA on our way from Victoria to Victoria and another one to allow re-entry to Victoria.

Asides from the impressive cliffs and vistas along this broad winding river, things that sparked interest included a koala in the middle of Westlakes Rd, a bait vending machine, an echidna, musk ducks (seen yet again at Hirths Landing), Pacific ducks, canoeists, boats, and fringe lilies as the most frequent flower. Nelson was a busy holiday town, and its kiosk provided drinking chocolate at the start and ice creams at the finish. Hirths Landing was its usual perfect spot for lunch.

Rob

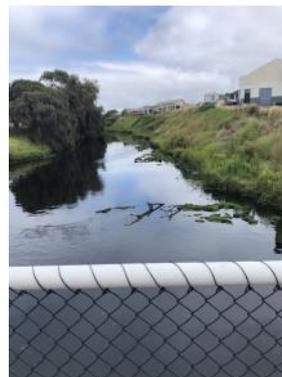


South Warrnambool: Saturday 30 January

Walkers: Rosalie 📷, Theresa, Kim, Lothar, Gwenda, Hugo, and prospective members Kirsty 📷 and Geoff.

A leisurely walk was had from Cannon Hill, along the Promenade to the Breakwater, to Pickering and Thunder Points, and finishing at Shelley Beach. Whilst having our snacks there, we enjoyed a fossick on the beach and over the rocks. Our return journey was around the Sewerage Treatment Plant, through the ever changing Woollen Mill development, ending at Fishtales Cafe. Chris Mc and Mabel were waiting to join us, after their walk along the Promenade. Our walk was actually 10 km, a little longer than I had estimated. A very enjoyable morning walk!

Gwenda



Glenfyne to Curdies Bridge: Saturday 6 February

Six walkers gathered very promptly to start this easy 14 km walk along the Timboon Rail Trail on a cool, but dry morning, after having taken precautions against leeches (which did not appear!). We walked at a steady pace, stopping to check out the new shelter, as well as all the trestle bridges. The group also spent time taste-testing the blackberries (a little tart) as well as the native raspberries (not so tart), and was pleased to learn about the spring which fed the creek and about the lime kiln, all courtesy of Graeme. The path was all our own, apart from two pairs of cyclists. After a short break at the shelter just beyond the Curdies Bridge, we retraced our steps completing the return walk a little faster than the outward leg.

Thanks to Jim, Lothar 📷, David B, Graeme, and Geoff (visitor) for a very enjoyable morning's walk.

Dina 📷



2021 Bushwalker's Blackberry Bash: Sunday 21 February

Pickers: Coralie, Mabel, Rob and Lothar

Numbers were down but the quality of berries was up. Four eager walker-pickers ate their way down to Melanesia Beach from the Ryan's Den access road and then picked and plucked their way back to the car.

This section of the GOW provides an interesting mix of coastal bushland, ferny gullies, and spectacular views of the ocean. There are also enough changes in elevation to ensure a good cardio and strength workout.

This year some of the canes had been hacked back, presumably by GOW track workers, but after recent rains and some hot weather, the berries were as numerous and as succulent as ever. Some of the fruit tasted a little tainted, possibly due to the humid, fungal spore-promoting conditions but careful pre-tasting avoided most of the risk of contaminating one's bounty.

We all returned with heavier-than-starting loads, stained and thorn-ridden hands but nothing that ice-creams and coffee in Port Campbell couldn't fix. Check out the [Warrnambool Bushwalkers Facebook page](#) for a 'Relive' video giving more details of the trip and for a recipe for a blackberry streusel cake.

Coralie



Yellow Rock—Cape Nelson—Murrells Beach along the GSWW: Saturday 27 February

Walkers: Rob 📷, Lothar, Rosalie, Coralie, Dina, Kirsty 📷, Geoff, Glenville, (for dining) Marjorie and Robyn.

We left W'bool at 7:30, shuffled cars at Yellow Rock, and started walking at 9:16. Except for all the white Moonahs there were not too many flowers so speed was good despite stopping at the many viewing spots looking across a grey sea towards Portland. Weather was overcast but just right for walking. We reached the lighthouse in the usual 3 hours, whereupon the topic of conversation quickly turned to the hotness of the curries on the menu of Isabella's Café's. After a tasty meal, the 5 km afternoon stroll was one that hadn't been done for a while. Nonetheless it is well worthwhile: barren rocky ground, unencumbered views down the cliffs to the breaking waves, and glorious seascapes across Bridgewater Bay to its Cape. The route also goes through an isolated stand of Soap Mallee. Cars were reached at 3 pm after a most enjoyable walk.

Rob

“Why soap mallee?” we asked ourselves. The answer given in a [1997 CSIRO report](#) is: *The bark of E. diversifolia is commonly smooth and grey, and is shed to reveal new cream bark underneath (hence the common names 'soap mallee' and 'white coastal mallee').*



Killarney ↔ Port Fairy: Saturday 6 March

Walkers: Lothar, Rosalie, Christine, Mary, Theresa, Jim and Rob

All the ducks were lined up for this to be a delightful walk: low tide ✓, low sun intensity ✓, temperature ✓, low wind ✓, no rain ✓, and firm sand ✓✓. Actually there weren't any ducks at all—just the usual gulls, lapwings, cormorants, oyster catchers, hooded plovers, those little feet-moving-furiously birds whose name always slips from one's memory, and two penguins, one dead, the other one beached and shivering. Theresa built a seaweed windbreak for it and it was looking slightly perkier when we passed it on the return walk.

Christine and Rosalie only planned to walk one way, something that came unstuck about half way when the thought “car keys!?” passed through their minds. They turned to walk back (right, far right) to Killarney, the location of the keys for the car awaiting them at Port Fairy. After driving to *Charlies on East* to join our celebratory halfway coffees, Rosalie excitedly reported that on their way back to the car they had seen four (presumably hooded) lovers (sic).

The return eastward amble was as pleasant as the westward one thus adding more ✓✓✓✓ for the morning. Lothar had pulled off a highly enjoyable walk yet again. The question is, of course, will we be as enthused with this part of the beach near the end of his April 3 Warrnambool to Port Fairy walk?



Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 7 March

Participants: Coralie, Kirsty, Rosalie, Ross, Rob, Theresa, David B, Mary and Jim

The venue was less than appealing, nevertheless nine club members turned out to assist in the clean up of the roadsides beside the Warrnambool Sewage Treatment Plant.

After registering, the group donned gloves and headed out to remove the trash beside the tracks. Working in twos, a truck load of bottles, cans, take away containers, golf balls and a huge variety of other items were bagged and brought back to the cars.

Rosalie and Mary assisted me to survey the rubbish to report back to the 'Clean Up' administration team. Then we set about dividing the collection into recyclable and waste. Theresa and Kirsty delighted in 'modelling' some of the discarded items of clothing while Ross and Jim had thoughtfully already sorted their collection. Before long all the rubbish, except for a few larger items, was loaded into cars for proper disposal. Coffees and tea were then enjoyed at ToTo's café on Timor Street.

All of the recyclable rubbish was taken to The *Cleanaway* Transfer Station on Koroit St. Many thanks to the kind staff member on duty who allowed me to deposit not only the recyclables, but the bags of trash too, for free. Thanks also to Mary, Ross & Rosalie who took rubbish home to put in their household bins and to the whole crew who cheerfully gave up their time. I think we made a difference despite finding two huge dumps in the bush which will be reported to WCC staff. I am hopeful they can send work crews and trucks down to remove the tyres, metal buckets, sofas, mattress and household rubbish left at the end of a couple of little used tracks.

Coralie



Cannon Hill to Hopkins River: Monday 8 March

Walkers: Gwenda, Mabel, Rosalie, Mary, Coralie 📷, Simone, Hugo

The pleasant walk from Cannon Hill to the Hopkins River and along the Lady Bay foreshore was expertly designed so that the heavy rain occurred during the important coffee-at-Fishtale's-café stage.



West Barwon Dam ↔ Lake Elizabeth: Saturday 13 March

Walkers: Rob, David T, Mabel, Rosalie and guest Simone.

Disbelief abounded in the car on being told that we would see a man walking along the Cobden road with a cockatoo on his shoulder. And rightly so, it was in fact a galah on his shoulder. A koala sitting in the middle of the road, another sighting from the last time we did this walk, did not eventuate but we did see one at eye level soon after we had started walking. Fluffy Clematis seeds were the main reminder of flowers. The tree ferns and towering mountain ash were as impressive as ever. No leeches.

Rain, predicted for about 11 am, started at little later than that, just after we reached the lake. For the rest of the walk it rained on and off, not enough to drown us but enough for parkas to be also on and off.

The cafés of Forrest did not disappoint.

Rob



Mepunga Coastal Reserve: Saturday 20 March

Participants : Gwenda, Lothar, Mabel, Rosalie

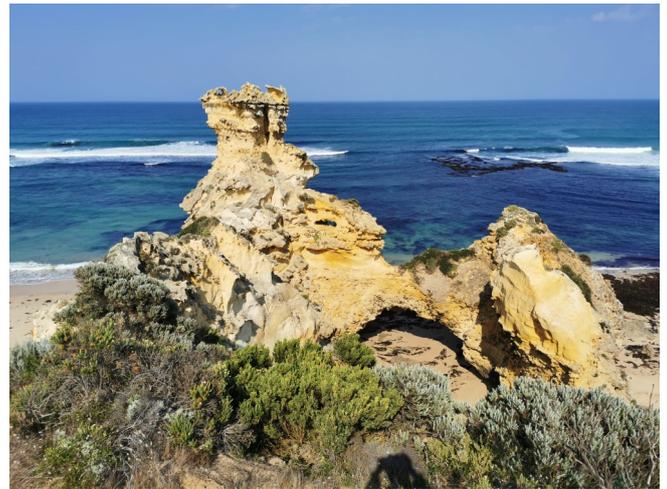
Gwenda, Rosalie and I left Warrnambool just after 7:45. Mabel joined us at Nullawarre for the remaining short drive to the end of Mathiesons Road.

We got underway at about 8:15 and headed east on the management track. At the appropriate turnoff we headed down the at times overgrown path to the beach. The plan was to now head west, round the headland through the rocks, and then walk for a couple of kms along the sand. The plan worked although scrambling through the rocks at low tide was trickier than I thought it was going to be. The sand was relatively firm to walk on but the slope made the walking a bit uneven. Stunning scenery of course: giant cliffs, endless sands, blue sky, no one else.

We eventually reached the quad bike track and made our way to the top of the cliffs. Farmlands. We kept heading west and explored the yellow rocks area. Magic.

The return along the management track was uneventful. The walk took just under 4 hours. Mabel went off to camp at Peterborough whilst the rest returned to Warrnambool for a well earned coffee at Bohemia.

Lothar



Street art in Warrnambool: Sunday 28 March

Participants: Mary, Coralie, Dina, Jim, Lothar 📷 and Chris, Dennis and Kathy, Rosalie, plus Gwenda for coffee

The last Sunday of daylight saving started at a gloomy 8 am which enabled us to appreciate the rainbow, but not the rain as we passed through the Swan Reserve. Jimmi Buscombe's penguin parade delighted us, as did his other paintings of birds throughout the CBD. We admired mosaic and painted depictions of local icons, pavement sculptures and paintings by local indigenous and other artists acknowledging indigenous heritage, and the decorations of several walls by sectors of the community from school children through to senior citizens. We checked out Hai Bin alley and the lanes around the F Project gallery where street art started and continues on practice walls. And much more! (Don't forget two new pieces of art in the IGA carpark.) The slow ramble enabled us to discover where new businesses had replaced older stores, and this led us eventually to coffee at Tilly Divine. Afterwards, some of us continued to the Botanic Gardens and the older blue and orange (workshop) murals in the Mortlake Road underpass. A very social morning of discovery in Warrnambool's CBD. See www.warrnamboolstreetart.com/artworks for more information. *Rosalie*

