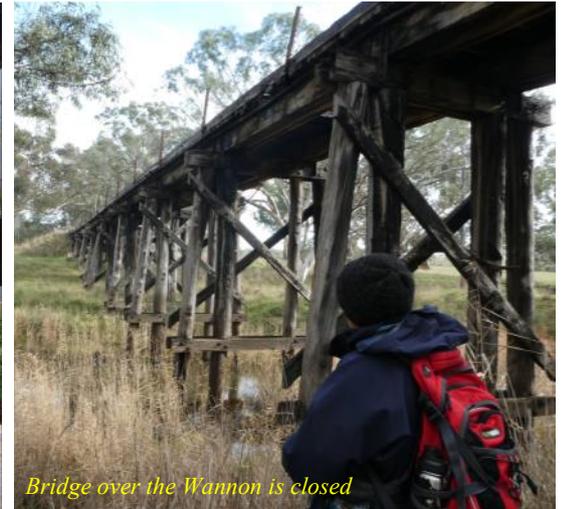


Walking the Hamilton-Coleraine rail trail: Saturday 3 July

Walkers: Rob 📷🪶, Diane, Kirsty 📷, Geoff and Ali.

About 60% of the 37 km railway line is now a [rail trail](#) whose surface suits a leisurely pace when cycling. It starts a little out of Hamilton and ends at Coleraine but has an 8 km road section in the middle.

Thanks to a couple of car shuffles we walked 9 km along the eastern part of the rail trail, 3 km by the Wannan River, and another 5 km along the western part. The scenery along the trail is fairly uniform but very pleasant: many old red gums line the route with even more in the surrounding green flat pasture, home to sheep and, at the moment, bunting lambs. The weather disregarded the dire forecast and couldn't have been better: cold but windless, mostly sunny, and dry but for two brief sun showers. It was a superb day of walking.



Bridge over the Wannan is closed

Tower Hill Wattle Walk: Saturday 31 July

Group 1: Lothar, Dina, Gwenda, Chris, Mike, Graeme, Geoff



Group 2: Rob, Dennis, Mary, Theresa, Kathy, Rosalie, Coralie



Group 2 used audio and visual methods to ensure they didn't lose the route but stayed the requisite distance behind group 1. The wattles were out—what more would you want for a wattle walk. With fine weather and good company as a bonus. Thank you Lothar.



The Chimney Pots track working bee: Saturday 14 August

Maintainers: Rob, Diane D, Dina, Rosalie and Di F all under the direction of Graham of the Grampians Walking Tracks Support Group

Low cloud and no view for most of the way to Dunkeld, thereafter perfect weather. A road blocked by a tree meant a detour and a slightly late start. The party divided into 2 drain diggers and 4 plant trimmers. The two groups were soon some distance apart—hence the lack of action shots. Not many flowers out yet. Plenty of water in the creek midway along the track. For some the path to the lookout was steeper than anticipated or remembered, but the view over to our stamping ground of Abrupt and Sturgeon was worth the climb.

Rob





Lake Elingamite

to and back from Saturday 21 August

*Cyclists: Mabel (leader),
Jim, Coralie, Rob, and
non-members
Jack and Fred*

**Mud, Mud,
Glorious Mud!!!**



Lake Purrembete



We anticipated some wet patches and maybe some mud but what we encountered far exceeded expectations. There were wet and muddy patches on the rail trail but it was when we got to Adams Road that we hit the mud. A small section was too muddy and slippery to cycle and when trying to negotiate the mud on foot Fred lost a shoe. It took a bit of pulling to retrieve it.



We were having coffee at Lake Purrumbete when the lockdown was announced with the two hour deadline! All we could do was continue as planned and get home as soon as we could. We had a head wind on the return half but nothing like that on the same ride last year. It was tough but enjoyable. We now have plenty of time to spend cleaning the bikes—we'll need it—mud is in all the nooks and crannies!



*Take care
and keep fit
during this
yet another
lockdown,
Mabel*



Cut Out Camp along the GSWW to Cubby's Camp:
Saturday 11 September

Rob, Lothar, Diane, Chris and Rosalie enjoyed the second day ex-lockdown walking the 15 km between these two camps through a seemingly (but not) uniform forest on a warm day, sunny at times, overcast at others, with only a few barely noticeable sprinkles of rain.



The photo of the best of the few puddles belies the fact that the track was dry. The couple of newly burnt areas provided a contrast with the typically dry scrub. Ditto some lush sections. Many trees had recently fallen, though not our lunch log.



The cutest of the dearth of flowers was the knee-high *Xanthorrhoea minor* while the common bird orchid was best-on-show.

Other highlights were two snakes, some wallabies and afternoon tea at Heywood.



Signal Peak: ~~29 May~~ Sunday 19 September

Walkers: Jim, Lothar, Christine, Diane, Coralie, Mabel, Janice, Graeme, Ali, Dina and Rob ✂

Those avid readers of our activities program will note that Rosalie is not on the list for this, her rescheduled assault on Signal Peak. Alas a sore throat meant she had to stay in Warrnambool and be tested.

Lothar's carload left slightly earlier than the rest to ensure adequate time for coffee at Dunkeld. We started up the Mt Abrupt track at 9:12 well aware of Rosalie's final instruction: take photos of orchids on the way down. From this you may assume that bad weather was predicted. It was overcast, with Mt William cloud-covered, but there was no rain. No orchids for that matter, or rather not the duck orchids we once saw along the track. All the same there were many flowers.

After 2 km on the old familiar track we branched onto the new track that sidles 2 km upwards to Signal Peak. Once over the ridge we had good views over the Victoria Valley and realised there was a very strong wind—our stay at the summit was brief, as was our lunch stop in the Dunkeld park. Who cares, it was a most enjoyable morning.



Wyperfeld: 23–26 September

Participants: Chris M, Coralie, Diane, Liz, Lothar, Mike, Rob

Wyperfeld. Big wide open sky. Stars. No rain. Desert views. Sitting around a wood fire. A 4 day adventure. Great!

Six vehicles (for seven participants) made the journey up to Wyperfeld this year...and covid was only partly to blame. We all had so much stuff to cart up!

The weather was perfect apart from the wind but that died down at sunset. A lot of the evening time was spent sipping wines and hot drinks and looking either into the fire or up at the stars and satellites/space junk streaking across the sky.

The walks, as usual, were the Desert Walk loop, Lake Brambruck and the Discovery walk, and the Tyakill loop with a side trip to the western lookout and back. Liz read a book and I had a nap in the car whilst the others did the touristy drive loop bit to view the mallee fowl mound and climb up to the Eastern dune lookout.



Thursday night was BYO; Friday we had chicken soup and poached pears; and Saturday we had Coralie's delight: a roast with 12 veg and no room for dessert. Breakfasts were (1) egg, bacon and cheese muffins, (2) pancakes with mascarpone cheese, blueberries and maple syrup, and (3) bircher muesli with poached pears and yoghurt, Chris S's homemade bread and condiments, or any leftovers.

And last but not least we laughed a lot and had a jolly good time and briefly stopped thinking about lockdowns.

Lothar

