

GPT—Jimmy Creek to Cassidy Gap: 5–7 April

Mabel and I (Rob) made life easier for ourselves by using an extra Friday afternoon for the section from Jimmy Creek to the Yarram Campsite. It includes the worst 3 km of GPT track surface. This camp's platforms, unlike the separated ones north of Hall Gap, could best be described as check-by-jowl. Nice site none the less. We had the company of six 14-yo boys, whose conversation centred around how to pitch a tent for the first time, and occasional remarks about what their mums' had said about tea, etc. Later they checked if a hat they'd found on route was ours and spent time killing European wasps in a water tank's drain.

Saturday's walk included the delightful ridge south from Yarram Gap, with lunch in our usual spot and a view down to the ex-sheep paddock that is home to our next stop, the Wannan Campground with its camping pads stretched in a long line, its three comfy seats, a miserable communal area, and a different loo collecting system. It's the only campsite set in a broad grassy valley rather than in rocks.

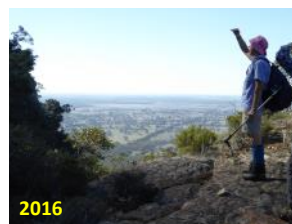
We left camp early on the Sunday while numerous roos were trimming the paddock. No water was under the bridge over the Wannan River crossed as we headed to the Griffin Fireline and from there, on one of the easiest day walks using the GPT, to Cassidy Gap.



GPT—Cassidy Gap to Dunkeld: 13–14 April

Hikers: Mabel, Janice and Rob; Sunday well-wishers: Christine, Coralie, Lothar, Dina and Katrina from the Piccaninny, and Ali from Dunkeld.

Except for the last 5 km of the GPT on private land between Mt Sturgeon and Dunkeld, this walk was in the Club's playground and training area so nothing much needs to be said: the dreaded steps up to Signal Peak, the satisfying stroll to the Mt Abrupt track, the even more familiar track to the summit, and down a possibly more dreaded set of steps to reach the new Mud-dadjug campsite nestled on rocks with its expansive views. Sunday's sunrise couldn't beat Lothar's Killarney Saturday spectacular.



In 2016 Mabel, Diane and Rob had a [weekend](#) with the Ballarat Bushwalking and Outdoor Club when that club was investigating options for the GPT. The picture shows someone at the proposed camp site searching the side of Mt Abrupt for the pink ribbons that marked the proposed route.

At 8 am on Sunday, the hikers left the camp and the well-wishers left Kepler St, both to meet at The Piccaninny car park around 9:15. And so the party set off, first to The Piccaninny and then up the seemingly endless track to Sturgeon's summit. Lunch was eaten 15 minutes further along the track. Near the end of the descent we met Ali who'd walked from Dunkeld to meet us. All that was left to do was to wander through grassland taking in different views to usual of Sturgeon, cross the stagnant Wannon River, and finish with an uphill slog to Dunkeld. Brolgas were seen on the drive home.



Dawn at Killarney: Saturday 13 April

Participants: Christine McA, Chris S, Coralie, Lothar, Mary, Rosalie

We left the Killarney Beach carpark at the ungodly hour of 6:30 and headed along the sand in the direction of Warrnambool. It was a super-low tide and the sand was firm as. We didn't need torches as there was already enough light to see by.

As we walked along more and more colour appeared in the clouds, and the reflections near the water's edge were amazing. Lots of birds were also about, including a pair of hooded plovers.

Sometime after sunrise we retraced our steps. Near the carpark we watched a group of about ten hardy and excited women immersing themselves in the water. We didn't join them. Instead, we headed to Poppies for early morning refreshments.

Thank you all for a very pleasant morning outing!

Lothar



**The 4 Peaks Challenge
Sunday 22 April**



Noorat

Participants: Coralie, Lothar, Mabel, Rob, Rosalie

Our 4 Peaks Challenge was a success! We arrived in Noorat at 7:45 am with no sign of the predicted morning fog. In no time at all we completed the Mt Noorat's circuit in an anticlockwise direction. We saw two nankeen kestrels. The views were fabulous, and we were looking forward to doing the other three peaks.



Sugarloaf



Leura



Elephant

At Camperdown, we pulled in at the *Loaf and Lounge* for light refreshments before assembling at the base of Mt Leura for the official 9:30 am start....an experience like you see on telly at the starting line of a fun run or marathon. Except it was walkers. We puffed up Mt Sugarloaf first, then tackled the Mt Leura circuit in a clockwise direction.

Rosalie returned home while the remaining four drove to Derrinallum and the base of Mt Elephant to have lunch at the info centre. Afterwards, we did a clockwise circuit of the rim in our climb to the top. There was a bit of panic along the way as Coralie had lost/misplaced her phone. Fortunately, it had just been left on the back seat!

During the day we had the pleasure of chatting to lots of different walkers, from interstate, Melbourne, and locally. The closest, 200 m from the starting line, was Mabel's sister, brother in law, and their excited pooch.

With the early start that we had we were back in Warrnambool before 3. Many thanks to all the walkers for a great day out!

Lothar

