

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.

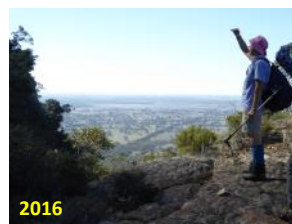
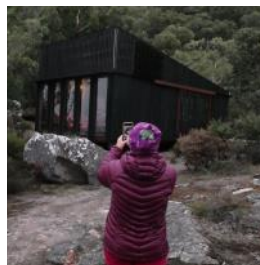
We left camp early on the Sunday while numerous roos were trimming the paddock. No water was under the bridge over the Wannan River crossed as we headed to the Griffin Fireline and from there, on one of the easiest day walks using the GPT, to Cassidy Gap.



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



Exploring Street Art in Warrnambool: Sunday 28 April

Participants: Theresa, Lothar and Chris, Ken and Shirley, Rosalie

Sunday was a perfect autumn day for a two-hour stroll exploring street art, from Kepler St carpark to Lake Pertobe and return.

After admiring the Penguin Parade on the wall of the dentist's surgery, we continued down Kepler St to Ambleside Wealth Advisers. Sandwiched between Bohemia and the Gunditjmarra Co-op is an aptly placed mural of a Blue Wren perched in the branches of *Eucalyptus Caesia*.



Off the Ozone carpark is Timor Walk, home of the Whales mural, but also the location of a modern mosaic titled Youth Showcase; amongst the illustrated tiles are twelve containing QR codes highlighting young performing artists and other talents. Above the mosaic are four suspended squares which light up at night.



Then to the F Project precinct where Jimmi Buscombe has painted a Barn Owl on a glow-in-the-dark surface on which people can use a torch (mobile phone) at night to draw on the mural before fading away within 15 minutes.



The IGA carpark now hosts four impressive murals, all by different artists, two more since 2020. At the TAFE corner, home of the iconic Ngatanwarr mural, Chris and Theresa returned to the start while four of us crossed the railway and walked through Lake Pertobe to the new indigenous designed Meeting Place beside the Lake; stone seats provide a welcome by clans of local Mob.

The long queue at the Beach Kiosk prompted us to return to the CBD via Cannon Hill. We checked out the wall of many birds off Koroit St, and the Yellowtail Black Cockatoos on the Post Office wall before indulging in coffee at *Bohemia*. A worthwhile wander for young people as well as 'oldies', so Go Check It Out!

Rosalie

Exploring Peshurst: Saturday 4 May

Explorers: Gwenda (leader), Coralie 📷, Christine and Lothar 📷

We set off on a chilly morning from Warrnambool. It was 8 degrees when we arrived at the base of Mt. Rouse. We did a circuit of Peshurst, walking past the Rec Reserve, out to the racetrack, and then through the beautiful Botanic Gardens with its stunning Autumn colours. By this time it was 10.30 and time to head to the bakery. My first time at the bakery and I highly recommend a trip to Peshurst just for the coffee, pies and cakes. A big crowd there! Great to see such a booming business in a small country town. Off to the Volcanic Info Centre and the Old Court House and finish the circuit at the base of Mt Rouse. Up and down Mt Rouse with its stunning clear views over Western Victoria.

As an add on we drove out to the Gnadenthal Lutheran Cemetery 5 km out of town, three of us having German ancestry.

A fabulous day out!

Gwenda



The Bondi to Manly walk : 8–16 May

Participants: Ali, Carole, Chris, David, Grace, Helen, Judy, Lothar, Mary, Pauline, Tam, and occasionally Trevor

The Bondi to Manly walk is described in detail in our [December 2023 Newsletter](#), so I won't describe it again.

Wednesday 8th was our getting there day. Tam, Grace and David had a short trip from Canberra, Carole flew in from Tassy, Ali came by car from Queensland way, and the rest of us trained, and then flew up at different times and airlines. The four of us on the same Jetstar flight experienced a 2 hour delay while a technical problem was attended to (unsuccessfully) before an aircraft change sorted out further delays. We reached our base, Glenferrie Lodge in Kirribilli, after dusk.

That night we all had dinner at different times and places in Milsons Point. Trevor and I both had the standard fish and chips from the seafood place...and that night both of us had an upset stomach. Needless to say, none of us went there again! Over the week we only all had dinner together once, on Tuesday. The rest of the time some dined in The Rocks and some dined in Milsons Point.

The walk was generally split up as described below, but we didn't do all the sections together or even in the same direction.

Thank you all for an absolutely fantastic time in Sydney! Plans are well underway for a return visit and highlights of B2M tour!

Lothar

Thursday 9th May: Coogee to the Gap at Watsons Bay. We knew rain was coming later in the week so decided to do more kilometres.



Friday 10th May: Rose Bay to Watsons Bay, plus The Gap to Watsons Bay loop.



Saturday 11th May: Rose Bay to Circular Quay. We started late. Thunderstorms and torrential rain (40 mm) were expected but when the thunderstorms didn't eventuate we decided to start. Lots of rain.



Sunday 12th May: Glenferrie Lodge to Frenchy's Cafe. Beautiful stone bordered tracks but poor maintenance and lack of drainage meant that a lot of the track was a series of shallow ponds.



Monday 13th May: Frenchy's Cafe to Manly. Lots of scenic bushland and old military defensive infrastructure.



Tuesday 14th May: Manly Wharf to Manly Beach via North Head. Bushland, military infrastructure, site of the old quarantine complex, and lots of great views. That night we dined together at the Kirribilli Hotel and celebrated the completion of our walk.



Wednesday 15th May: We all did different things. I went to the Botanic Gardens again, then the art gallery and the Fish Market. Our evening meal was at The Rocks Cafe. Some returned to GL by ferry but most of us walked back across the SH bridge.



Thursday 16th May: Home!



GSWW—Swan Lake to Mt Richmond: Saturday 18 May

Rob 📷, Janice and Coralie 📷 enjoyed ideal walking weather for this not-as-interesting section of the Great South West Walk. After leaving a car at the Mt Richmond picnic area we drove to Swan Lake and had a quick look at the lake and GSWW campsite before starting the walk with a short road-bash. Next was a sandy road with a redeeming feature of a good view to the west from the edge of the escarpment. The first half of the walk is mainly on roads along the south side of the pine plantations. To avoid a section where logging is being done a temporary detour has been made through sheep paddocks, a much more pleasant variant. The second half goes through non-descript but changing bush with at times impressive grass trees being the dominant understory. Starting from about the halfway mark and including the loop from the summit to the lookout would be a better way to redo this walk.

Rob



Timboon Rail Trail: Saturday 1 June

Participants: Coralie, Rob, Lothar, Rosalie, Campbell, Christine, Pauline and first timer – Nathalie

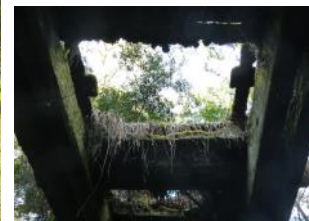
This walk has featured every year since the club began so finding a different focus is challenging. Even so, 8 starters met at the Timboon Trestle Bridge over the Curdies River before the agreed 10 am starting time.

The morning air was crisp, and a slight fog arose from the Curdies as we all headed to the bridge. Walking across was treacherous even at this hour and Lothar and Rosalie chose to head back to Timboon. The rest of the group carefully trod the slippery boards and headed north to the older trestle bridges. We admired and photographed the two nearest before turning around, retraced our steps but went under the bridge by road rather than re-crossing it, and continued to Timboon.

Newcomer Nathalie regaled us with stories of her daring cycling exploits on the Twelve Apostle Trail. Unfortunately, one of her 'tricks' ended badly but she has since healed and is able to continue pursuing outdoor pursuits.

Everyone met up at The Provedore Café for lunch. Some took a short trip to the Timboon Fine Ice Cream shop on the hill for dessert before we all returned to the cars.

Thanks to the participants for their lively tales on the walk.
Coralie



Monibeong Camp – Noble Rocks Circuit: Saturday 15 June

Three club members and one visitor set out on a mild winter's Saturday to walk a section of the GSWW. Leaving the campsite at 9.30 am we enjoyed an easy walk on a well-maintained track past the lake and through 7 km of native coastal bushland. At the end of the track, we finally descended onto the magnificent Discovery Bay beach where I was relieved to find it was a reasonably low tide which enabled us to walk on firm sand to reach Noble Rocks.

Rob and Lothar then set off to check out the restoration work of the Long Swamp (bottom left) by the Glenelg Nature Trust, while Christine and Paul headed back along the beach. Walking against the wind, it took some time to arrive at the track leading back to the camp. From the beach, it was a short undulating walk through the dunes, stopping briefly at the look out, with views of the plateau and lake. We then had a short break at the deserted campsite to marvel at the crystal-clear water of the lake (bottom right) and enjoy the peaceful serenity.

No trip is complete without a visit to a bakery for a coffee. Thanks to Rob who indulged us by stopping at Heywood on the way home. It is a beautiful walk if you are into beach walking. Thanks to Rob, Lothar and Paul for your company.

Christine

