

Killarney: Wednesday 1 January



Participants: Christine, Rosalie, Simone and son Alex, Pauline and Trevor, Rob 📷, Gwenda, Mary, Angie and Neil, Campbell, Lothar 📷

We would have had four more walkers but circumstances—yobbo neighbours, blisters, and a trip/fall—conspired against us. Not a Happy New Year start for all of us!

We assembled on the hill behind the carpark, walked to the beach, and headed east towards Warrnambool. It was low tide so we walked on firm sand. At Greer's Bay we went inland to the end of Basin Track and walked along it back to the cars. A few walkers then went home.

The rest of us decided against the inland route to the Port Fairy golf course, but instead walked a few bays to the west before returning.

We relocated the vehicles to the BBQ area and had a picnic sheltered from the wind. We abandoned the wait for the actual sunset as the colours just weren't forming in the sky.

Still, a pleasant start to the new year!

Lothar



Concentrating on what the club does best—eating



Bridgewater Bay: Sunday 12 January

Walkers: Rob, Lothar, Robyn, Christine and Dina.

Having decided that a coastal walk would be cooler than the programmed Mt Sturgeon, 5 walkers set off for Bridgewater Bay. First stop was the new Swell Accommodation, located at the old school camp we regularly used for our Christmas weekends, now totally changed, and comprising tiny cabins on wheels. We then set off up the hill to view the seal colony, not at all smelly this time, and the seals fairly quiet. We continued along the cliff tops for another 2 kilometres or so, not quite getting to the Perilous Parapet. We deemed 11 am to be the turn around point, so we could be sure of getting lunch at the kiosk! The kiosk was also quiet, so we had a prime location for our lunch with a sea view. Dessert consisted of strawberries and ice cream at the Portland Strawberry Farm on our way home. Thanks to the walkers for a very enjoyable day.

Dina



Beside the train tracks from Deakin Uni to the 'Bool: Saturday 18 January

Being summer, a shorter version than usual for this walk had been programmed. As it was, we were finished well before the heat hit.

After a free bus ride, *Rob, Lothar and Rosalie* went through the University gardens to the river with its aquatic life and views,



along some streets, and across a paddock to the rail line to follow it past the occasional vegetable garden jutting into the rail easement.



Next came views of the river, the cemetery, the wombat without its Christmas hat, an eagle, and a glimpse of the sea. That eased us back



to civilisation: the caravan park, the carnival, and 2 hours after starting, Pertobe's kiosk. As for seeing a train, here's one I prepared earlier!



Childers Cove: Saturday 25 January

Participants : Dina, Fairlie, Lothar (leader), Rob, Robyn

When we arrived at Murnane's Bay Carpark, our starting point, it was populated with 3–4 campsites. The 'Toilets Closed' signs—which were prominent on the previous Wednesday—were nowhere to be seen. What a relief!

It took us only a few minutes to get ourselves ready, and then we headed east. We stopped at various vantage points to savour the views, and then continued. Much better than the 12 Apostles!

The steep sandy slope onto the beach was great fun, as was the climb up to the top of the cliffs at the far end of Sandy Bay. The bush bash through the scrub drew blood (mine) but caused no issues apart from the application of iodine and a Band-Aid.

The tide was low at Dog Trap Bay so we were able to walk its length and duck through the cave. The disturbed sand here looked like a seal had come onto the beach and then left again. We followed the washout to the left and eventually made it to the grassy surface above. Then a steady climb back up to the Dog Trap Bay Carpark.

We followed the fence line west to the creek, crossed it, and made our way up to the Sandy Bay Carpark. We then walked back to the car for morning tea. The caravan had gone by then but the 4WD campers would be there until we were ready to start our second loop. We explored the sink hole area, Childers Cove, its echidna (thanks to Fairlie's eagle eyes) and other features before finally returning to the car. All that was left now was to drive to the Freckled Duck for refreshments, and then go home.

Many thanks to all for an excellent morning's walk!

Lothar



Timboon ↔ Port Campbell bike ride: Sunday 2 February

The start time was moved to 8 am because of the predicted high temperatures. But even that was not enough to beat the ever increasing prediction for the 11 am temperature at Timboon and so the ride was cancelled.

Timboon Gourmet walk: Sunday 2 February

Participants: Barry, Campbell, Lothar (leader), Mary, Rosalie

It was to be a stinking hot day... but not a total fire ban day. To make it a more comfortable and safer walk, the planned distance of 23 km was reduced to 11 km, and the finishing time was set to an early 10 am.

We arrived at Timboon's swimming pool carpark before 7:45 am and shortly afterwards Cam arrived. We detoured briefly to the loos, and were on the track by 8 am.

The return walk to the Curdies River trestle bridge took just over the planned 2 hours. We heard yellow tailed black cockatoos and saw one perched in a tree. We also heard gang gangs, kookaburras, and an assortment of smaller unidentified birds.

Despite the early start and quite a few cyclists and runners, there were a few wallabies about on or near the track. We stopped to admire the longhorn cattle with their enormous wide horns, and briefly lingered on the middle of the bridge before returning.

We drove the 6 km to Schultz's for morning refreshments, and had excellent coffees, cakes, and a toasty. We also made obligatory adhoc cheese/bread purchases, and sat relaxing at a table in the shade under the trees. We topped this off with a drive to the ice-creamery and a delicious cone, and were back in Warrnambool by about 1 pm.

A short but sweet day!

Lothar



Stock photo from WBW archives



This walk kicked off in very cold conditions at Martins Point where the pivotal role of basalt walls in putting the *Port in Port Fairy* was evident.

The group moved off along the river to Gipps St to view various building styles, construction

methods and land uses that illustrate the unique qualities of limestone, Merri stone, and bluestone sourced locally or further afield from the Western Plains. Walls of import (or not) were admired and discussed in terms of their composition, coping, bedding, render, mortar, stone quality (or not) and workmanship.

On display along our route via Cox, Wishart, Campbell and William Streets were more stone work techniques than an entire colony of freemasons could produce.

The fine example of ecumenicalism set by early architect Nathaniel Billing, involved in both the Anglican and Catholic churches, was followed by visits to St Patricks, the Church of Christ and St



Port Fairy—Stone Impressions: Saturday 8 February

Stone mason: Janice

Apprentices: Barry, Cambell, Christine, Coralie, Lothar, Rob

Trainees: Jill, Julie, Spirit

Andrews and with reference to stonework at St Johns and the Wesleyan (now Uniting) church.

A quick trip to the cemetery showcased more examples of significant stonework and the intricate carving skills of early monumental masons such as

Walter McGill. The variety and quality of the stone features of Port Fairy tell the story of its development and change over time.

The sun was out by the time the walk finished with the last tall tale and true of local derring-do in the form of a mock naval battle on the Moyne. Perfect conditions for participants to make the most of the modern attractions of Port Fairy: the

Saturday market, coffee shops, ice cream parlours and the annual Jazz Festival.

*Thank you to all for your interest and willingness to observe, discuss and stroll.
Janice*



Budj Bim, Napier and Rouse: Saturday 15 February

Participants: Rob, Lothar, Pauline and guest Spirit

Squalls, if the weather radar was a guide. And rain it did, most of the way to Budj Bim. Road dangers were two sheep beside it, a koala scuttling across it, and many kangaroos near the entrance of the park. No rain at all as we circumnavigated Lake Surprise on a well-cleared track along the crater rim. We could tick off volcano number one after 100 minutes.



A couple minutes rain-delay in the car before we started our climb of Mt Napier, whose summit was reached simultaneously by us and a short squall. Volcano number two took 90 minutes. And for those of you anxious for the statistics on the number of koalas seen in the trees on the drive in: 'twas 10, a record!

Penshurst was reached at 12:40, ample time to tackle the bakery before it closed at 2 pm. That left only Mt Rouse to be conquered. Done in 37 minutes—the strong wind and spitting rain at the top meant a hasty retreat despite a comfy seat and the murky Grampians appearing from the murk.



All that was left was to drive to the opposite end of Ritchie St for a bonus attraction: Yatmerone Swamp. More rain on the drive back. We briefly stopped at, but didn't get out of the car for, the historic Hawkesdale culvert.

Rob

Clean Up Australia Day: Sunday 2 March

Six members gathered at the start of the Russell's Creek Trail to don gloves and collection bags and begin our annual clean up of litter along the path. Working in groups of two, we managed to fill six bags of the usual refuse, plus an array of items that would not fit in the provided bags. These included a home-made foot scooter, a Christmas tree including decorations, a small clothes airer, a couple of golf balls and enough cans and bottles to record a donation of \$1.40 to the WET charity.

We also managed to lose Mabel's mobile phone along the way. After much frantic searching this was found undamaged on the ground among the trees, much to everyone's relief.

Thanks to Mabel, Mary, Rosalie, Christine and Rob for their efforts on this morning.

Coralie



Port Fairy walk: Sunday 9 March

Participants: Robyn, Lothar, Coralie, Cam, Mary

Starting with a not quite ice-cold water from Visitor information, after the bus driver got lost, five set off towards East Beach. The wind was behind us and initially quite cool. A pleasant walk, starting to get quite hot by the time we left the island, some peeled off early. Others finished at Pea Soup with a paddle/swim before checking out the crowds.

Robyn



Around Portland Discovery Walk: Saturday 15 March

Participants: Christine, Rosalie, Coralie, Khyll, Ken and Shirley with guests Spirit and Claudia

Eight walkers commenced our walk at Portland's World War 2 Memorial Lookout Museum. Climbing the internal staircase of its tower, we were rewarded with 360-degree views of Portland and the region. Unfortunately, due to smoke hazy conditions, distant views were obscured but we all agreed it will definitely be worth coming back to on a clear day. Within the tower is an extensive collection of material relating to WW2 particularly Portland's involvement in this conflict.

From the tower we made our way towards the lighthouse and on to Immigrants Wall. We spent some time reading the plaques to find out if any of our distant relatives were mentioned before making our way to the Information Centre and Maritime Museum.



Time for a coffee break, and a look inside the Museum before heading towards Cliff St, where many historical buildings are situated. Of particular interest was the Rocket Shed, which was a storehouse for the rocket rescue equipment.

Being a particularly warm day, entering the shaded Botanic Gardens provided welcome relief. We were also rewarded with a magnificent display of dahlias where we lingered for some time ooo-ing and aaa-ing over the many colours and varieties. We then followed the walking track to Fawthrop Lagoon and, after stopping for lunch, we walked around the Lagoon trying to spot some of the 150 bird species that are known to reside there.

It was time to head back to our starting point. Two chose to take the cable tram while the remaining six trudged up the hill, stopping briefly at All Saints Church for a breather and a look at one of the Mary MacKillop sites.

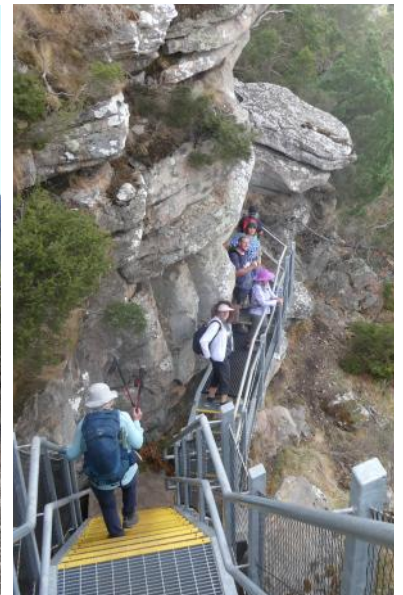
All up this was a very enjoyable walk and I thank all the participants for their attention and good humour on the day.

Christine



Sturgeon to Dunkeld: Saturday 29 March

The route for Mabel and Ali's training walk was chosen so Mabel could preview the walk she'll be leading for Fedwalks. Coralie, Kyle, Sladjana, Rob and Claudia came too. From the Piccaninny carpark the minor peak was soon conquered. It took longer to reach the prize, Mt Sturgeon. Thereafter it was downhill via lunch to the Wannan River before the final stretch to Dunkeld.



Highlights of the GSWW: 29 March to 5 April

Participants: Barry, David, Grace, Gwenda, Khyll, Lothar, Pauline, Suzanne, and Trevor

The walk was planned as a series of day walks: one day in the Cobboboonee forest, two days along the Glenelg River (Moleside to Battersbys, The Canyon to Simsons Landing), and four days along the coast (Nelson to Monibeong, Bridgewater Lakes to the kiosk, Trewalla to Cape Nelson, and Cape Nelson to Yellow Rock). On our last day Rob and 4 others drove up from Warrnambool to join us. Walking lengths varied between 8 km and about 20 km.

We stayed in various accommodation options in Nelson (4 nights) and Portland (3 nights). Only Barry chose the tenting option. We had a number of vehicles and were able to use them for car pooling and shuffling.





In Nelson, Gwenda, Suzanne and I shared an AirBnB house and we used this as a base for group dinners: lasagne and salad (Pauline, Khyll), spaghetti (Grace, David), dahl bhat terkari (Lothar), and desserts, nibbles and drinks. One night we all went to the pub.



In Portland, we had fish and chips, and various meals at Edwards Waterfront Restaurant. Not to mention the superb lunches at the Cape Bridgewater kiosk.

Other adventures included (for some) a drive to Hells Hole, a visit to an area riddled with wombat holes, a looksee at the state of the Princess Margaret Rose Cave area, and a guided tour of the Gannet Colony behind the smelter. And we did come across a tiger in the middle of one of the tracks...

It was a superb week. The weather was just right for walking...but not for swimming. Only David braved the cold at Cape Bridgewater for a quick dip! It was an absolute pleasure being with such a great group who got on so well with each other.

Lothar