

Packchat Lite 13/2024

Allan's report

On Sunday the 14th January we

ventured to
Cape Schanck
for the
Bushrangers
Bay walk.

We had 8
members and
2 guests, each
of whom are
interested in
applying for
membership.

The day was
fine and the
track in good condition. We arrived at the beach at Bushrangers by 10.30 for morning tea.

We took an hour to explore the rock pools and beach, before tackling the return walk.



On arrival at 9.00 AM we had found that the car park was overflowing way down the road. We had to park well back from the car park so experienced a bonus kilometre walk.

It turned out that there was a major event underway. There were 1200 people competing in a run of the two bays walk. The result was that we were forced to give way to runners on the often narrow track . We need to take this event in mind when undertaking this walk in the future.

By then the running field had thinned. The remaining runners were doing the track twice, thus 56 km.

We went back to the cars and drove to Flinders to take lunch on the hill beside the monument with great views of Phillip island and the Nobbies. It was a fairly easy walk of some 7 km.



Gerry's Midweek walk January 17th January, 2024

Four hardy souls set forth from the Dandenong Basketball stadium in steady rain. We walked 1-2 kms around the very wet Dandenong wetlands, then under the freeway to the Dandenong Creek trail. Turning off this, onto the road for a stretch to reach the Nerre-Nerre Warren Picnic Area before entering a grassy wetland loop with masses of kangaroos.

We retraced our steps to the picnic area and took the woodland walk heading up to the historic area.

Here's a photo of a cairn which has historical data, not directions on it. It is in poor condition and difficult to read.



After a few moments looking at the cairn and information board we headed down the hill on a narrow track to exit next to the Dandenong Creek trail again.

By this time the rain had eased to a drizzle, but we were drenched, so we cut the walk a little short and made our way back to the cars.

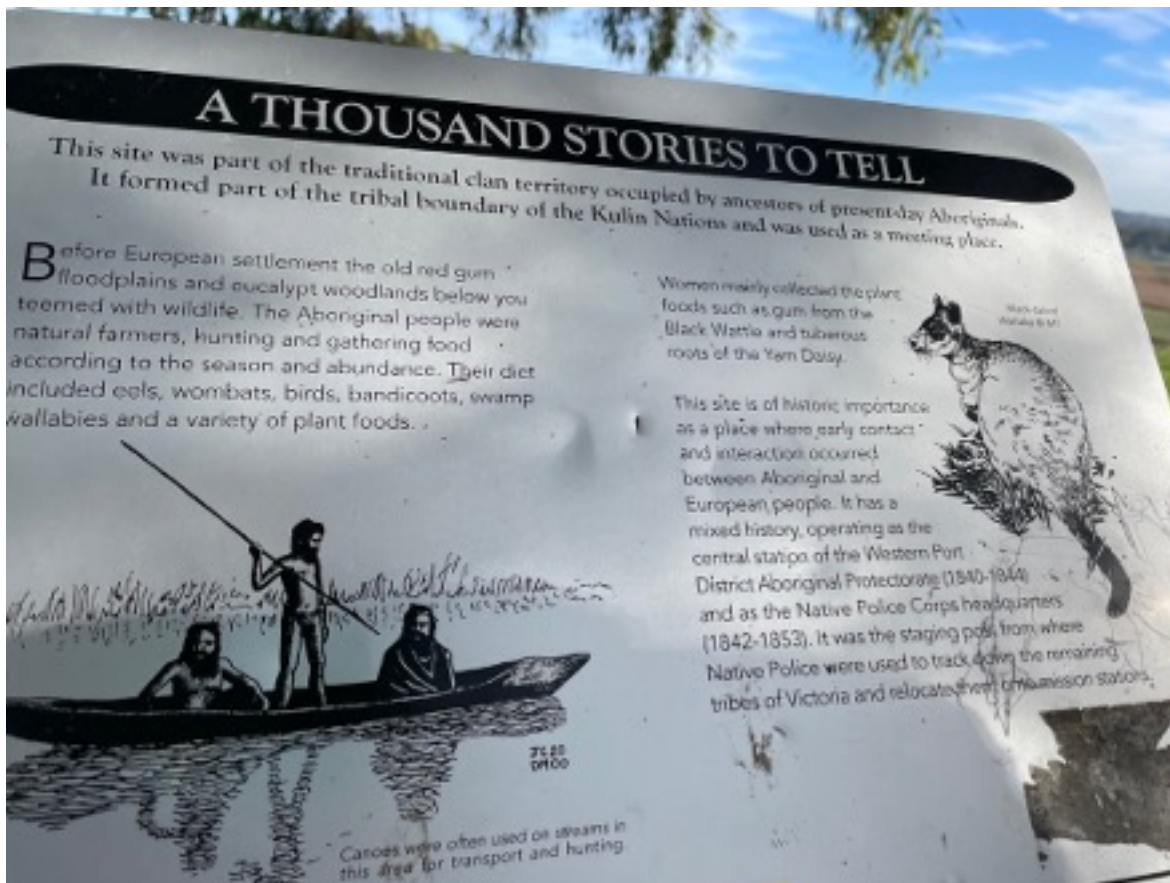
The Dandenong Police Paddocks is one of the most significant Aboriginal sites in the Melbourne area, and one of the most important sites for Aboriginal-settler



interactions in the first years of the Port Phillip settlement.

The site is a place of immense cultural and historic value to the Bunurong and Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people.

The information board which looks as though it has been used for target practice.



Parks Victoria is in the process of creating a master plan aimed at improving the amenity of the area. Currently the area we were in is rather overgrown with poor signage, and the access road has long been used as an illegal dumping ground for rubbish. Some parts of the paddocks are used for sports, with several soccer pitches and a softball centre, these are maintained in better condition.

January 28th – Tiz + Kurth Kiln figure 8 circuit



Originally we had a walk in the Taradale area listed for the Australia day long weekend. However there was minimal interest shown by the Member's in participating, so rather than missing out on celebrating our Country's beautiful offerings entirely, I decided to change the venue to somewhere closer to home.

I offered a figure eight hike through an area that we'd previously visited, Kurth Kiln Regional Park. I had hoped that the proximity of the walk and the

fact that there was an option to do either the long or short circuit of the 11.5kms would entice more Members, it certainly did! 11 Members decided to do the whole circuit with a couple meeting us for the second section. The weather was a little humid but fine, good enough for walking anyway.

The first loop was 7.3kms beginning with the 2km Thornton Walking Track where we enjoyed the beautiful mix of mountain ash and tree ferns, there are seven different plant communities along the way, information boards supply information regarding each community.

The track finishes at the end of the camping area loop. It was a little disappointing to come out of the beautiful bush to see an abandoned camp site surrounded by household rubbish where we surmised a family may have been staying between more permanent lodgings.

From Thornton Track we head towards Scout Loop track and morning tea.

After morning tea we headed along a gravel road called Shepherds Creek Track and finally Tomahawk Creek Track which runs along the Tomahawk Creek.

We had a leisurely lunch by the rocky bank of the Creek where we meet with Sue & Ray who joined us for the second, shorter



loop.

Unfortunately, the 2nd loop, although shorter, did have a bit of a descent and then ascent – well, we had to have a bit of a challenge, otherwise it wouldn't have been a bushwalk?!

This really is a gem of an area,

close to home, with lots of walking tracks and, if you like free camping, a few good spots to immerse yourself in our bush wonderland.

NB: Four of us decided we had to finish the day off with a little delicacy and coffee in the lovely old Spencers Café in Gembrook. Definitely worth a visit!

Tiz



MT WORTH STATE PARK WALK (11th Feb 2024) leader:Anna

As the forecast was quite warm, we decided to leave/start an hour earlier than usual. The three of us set off from the Moonlight Creek Picnic area8/carpark at 8.30am.

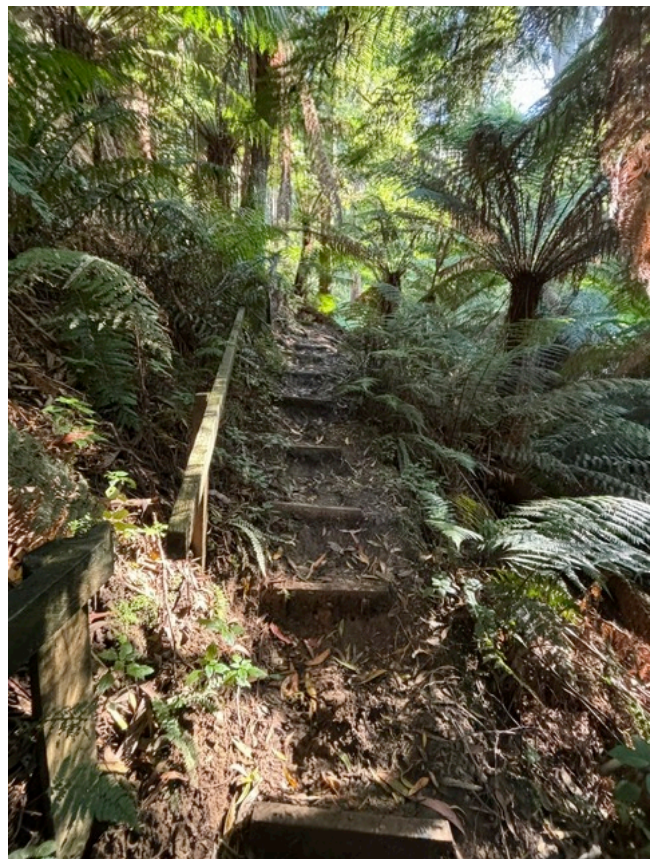


Originally, I planned to do 15.5 kms, being the full Moonlight Track. As we wanted to be finished at around 2-2.30pm and include some snack and drink stops along the way, we reduced the distance to 11.5 kms. This meant walking the Moonlight Circuit, The Giant's Circuit and Maslins Mill.

We heard lots of different bird sounds, which we couldn't all identify apart from the yellow-tailed black cockatoo and the

Kookaburra. Mountain Ash, the Mountain Grey Gum, and Blackwood Forest together with the beautiful fern gullies provided lots of shade making the walk very pleasant.

There was lots of signage to read with interesting information. We also found a small waterfall at midpoint while on the Waterfall-Bower Track. Spent some time there, then moved onto the Giant's Circuit to check out the impressive Standing Giant, a huge Mountain Ash. It is believed to be around 300 years old with a girth of 15 meters.





The view was a little obscured as there were many high tree ferns surrounding it. Still worth a photograph with the sun filtering through the trees.

We found some rusting machinery, that marked the site of the

Gardiners No 2 Mill site and an old boiler lying beside a sawdust heap, which was where Trevorrow's Mill had once been.



One funny incident: we were looking

for somewhere to sit to have morning tea and found a fallen tree log, which was perfect and did the job. After picking up our belongings to move on we spotted a 'proper bench', Jolanta and Debra posed happily for the pic.

Apart from a couple of slightly muddy bits at the bottom of the fern gullies, the walk was very manageable with regular ascents and

descents. Nothing too strenuous for us three experienced ladies!

Afternoon tea of Devonshire Tea was enjoyed at the Stump Café in Darnum before heading home.

Thank you to Debra and Jolanta for your company!!



Berwick to Pakenham Bike Ride Sunday 18th February

This was the third attempt at this ride. It was worth the wait as the day was perfect, with a mild temperature and virtually no wind.

A group of 6 left Berwick Station for a winding route through back

streets and a little wetland to reach the Princes Highway and on past the bustling

Tiz & Bill joined us here...



On through Beaconsfield to join the path along the Princes Highway before turning off to the rail trail, a lovely wide trail past more wetlands. A missing section

of the trail saw us take a longish detour over the long-awaited bridge over a creek, which had been a barrier to reaching Pakenham, then onto the rail trail again as far as Road Station.

was a short Lakeside, a very busy area with walkers, dogs, a market. We had a coffee break at **Cultural Centre** and took the toilet break required for large tapestries



Cardinia. From here it is a distance to Pakenham, with children and had our the **Cardinia**

obligatory viewing of 6 depicting

local townships. It is a mystery why such beautiful and interesting works are relegated to a spot beside the toilets.

A further short ride along the highway and we came to the Toomuc Valley Linear Reserve, a peaceful green corridor, which led to the trail beside the Princes Freeway. We followed this for some distance, making a couple of detours for missing sections.

The next leg was flat and easy, with more detours past 2 level crossing removal sites, then into **Manna Gum Park**, a small green patch with tables and seats undercover, just right for our lunch.

Tiz and Bill left us after lunch. The rest of us carried on for few kilometres past the medical precinct, Casey Hospital, public, and St John of God Hospital, private, to the station. Goody Gerry



Watson's Creek, Yarra Glen Day Walk

Sunday 25th February 2024

I reckon I should have called this walk 'The Butterfly Walk. All day the five of us attendees were constantly surrounded by a myriad of these colourful



Lepidopterans, non of which would, disappointingly, sit still long enough for a photo shoot to ID them. They fluttered about without a care in the world as we happily strolled through the, both moist and dry, eucalypt forests.

Before 7am that morning we had six attending, but unfortunately one had to pull out due to an unforeseen circumstance. So the five of us met at McKenzie Reserve in Yarra Glen, then we drove up on to the top of the ridge line overlooking Yarra Glen to leave two cars on Butterman's Road, the end point for the walk.

Making a good job of squeezing into one car, we drove around to the start of the walk on One Tree Hill Road in Christmas Hills. It intersects with the Roberts Road Track at a makeshift car park where we had to negotiate a rather deep ditch to get into. We donned our packs and started walking along a Parks Victoria access track on private property before reaching a locked gate at the start of the Warrandyte-Kinglake Conservation Reserve. Following Roberts Track along the gently rising contour line through moist Messmate forest with Sweet Bursaria out in flower, we enjoyed the occasional view out to the east and the hills on the other side of the valley





where our walk would conclude.

We stopped for morning tea at the intersection with Bullen Bullen Track, spooking a dog owner retreating at a speedy pace, canine in tow – dogs are banned in

the conservation reserve. Then we continued on as the day warmed, gently rising to a T-intersection with the Five Mile Track. By now the surrounding forest was noticeably drier with abundant Peppermints and Box Eucalypts. We ascended the Tuan and Henry's Tracks on to the ridge line, across Butterman's Road and up to the end of Marshall's Road. Here we entered the southern paof the Kinglake National Park taking the Watson's Creek Track east.

Finding a nice, cool and shady spot on the rise of the hill, we plonked down for a hearty lunch.

Now quite warm, we enjoyed a long rest in the quiet afternoon sitting amongst the butterflies still continually flitting about. Happily satisfied and rested, we continued on the Watson's Creek Track, undulating over several knolls before reaching a gate marking the national park boundary with private property. Having checked prior to the walk that the owner is happy to have walkers (and



mountain bikers/horse riders) using the track, we continued on descending till reaching a gate going into the owner's house area. Here there is a regularly used Bridal Track off to the left following a fence line around the house. The Watson's Creek is down a steep drop off to the east. We thankfully reached Butterman's Road as the afternoon temperature was getting rather hot, and



found our cars where we'd left them down the road next to a water tank.

Two needed to depart off home, whilst the remaining three of us collected the other car from the start then had thirst quenching iced drinks and cake at the Yarra Flats

Café in Yarra

Glen. It certainly was a very pleasant and enjoyable day walking in a rarely used interesting part of the Kinglake-Warrandyte area.

Heather Walker