



WILDSIDE

THE WILDERNESS SHOP NEWSLETTER

Trip Review: Mallacoota to Wonboyn *by Bernadette*



All along the NSW section of the walk the beach is guarded by beautiful sandstone cliffs up to 50 metres high. Perched on the cliff tops with the full moonlight and bracing winds we couldn't believe our eyes as all of a sudden a whale breached so close to the coastline that we experienced a very up close encounter, making all that tough beach walking worthwhile.

The following morning we made our way back down the cliff to the Nadgee River and headed towards Little River. This track was easy walking through coastal scrub. Suddenly the bush opened out into a grassy green paddock being Newton's beach campsite, which was very upmarket with picnic tables, toilet, beautiful beach and flat tent sites on lush green grass.

Next Day we enjoyed exploring the beauty of Jan Spiers Beach and exploring the sea caves before making our way to camp at Merrica River. Whilst Merrica River offers a menu of Wonboyn oysters it also had a resident tiger snake basking in the sun.

As we made the last leg of our journey to Wonboyn it was sad to say goodbye to this beautiful coast. Having spent many nights in five star camp sites, it is not surprising that many walkers make an annual return trip to Nadgee coast.

On the boundary between Victoria and NSW lies a coastal wilderness zone with amazing scenery and a sense of remoteness. While the 58 km walk can be done in three long days, we decided to take our time to soak it all up. The walking is generally not too steep, but the soft sand and exposure to sun and wind make walking a little strenuous sometimes. The best time to walk is definitely in spring as fresh water is more available and the temperature is more pleasant.

Having left a car at the Wonboyn area, we made our way back to Mallacoota and had one last meal at the local bakery, before taking a short boat trip across Mallacoota Inlet to the start the walk. We walked through the tea-tree lined track, then up over the sand dunes to reach our camp site at the beautiful Lake Barracoota.

Next morning the challenge of beach walking was first on the agenda. Finding firm sand was difficult, especially with a full pack laden with goodies. As we made our way along the coastline we had the beach to ourselves to enjoy ocean sounds and views of Gabo Island lighthouse. Near this spot, the SS Riverina ran into Tullaberga Island in April 1927 and the remains can still be seen protruding from the water.

The beach walking continued with one of the party members trying their luck at surf fishing to no avail. Drinking water needs to be carried from Lake Barracoota to Lake Wau Waka otherwise the only water to be found is in small stagnant pools. After a tiring day of beach walking we were pleased to reach our camp site.

Day Three we continued our beach walking heading towards Cape Howe. After Iron Prince Point we traversed some amazing sand dunes before reaching Conference Point with a cairn marking the Victoria and NSW border.



Moving along to Nadgee Lake we were pleased to leave the beach walking and head inland to camp along the Nadgee River. Following a successful day of fishing and gathering shellfish, dinner was quite a feast.



On a logistics note, it is probably easier to do the walk starting in Mallacoota, that way you can book the Mallacoota Inlet boat crossing in advance and avoid any waiting around time. Also, as this is a one direction walk, your options for getting home are either a 2 hour car shuffle, or hiring a local driver (ask the boat charters for a recommendation) to pick you up from Wonboyn.

Comprehensive track notes to this walk can be found in *Walking the Wilderness Coast* rrp \$27.50. The book has walking notes covering the entire coast from Lakes Entrance to Eden in NSW. If you have the time and energy, the 19 day, 213km walk from Cape Conran to Eden is an epic Australian bushwalking adventure. It rightly stands along side other classic long walks such as the Alpine Walking Track and the Larapinta Track.



Product Review: New Lowe Alpine Range *by Nick*



The problem with working in an outdoor gear store is that you were probably a gear-head before you even started. Surrounded by great outdoor gear everyday is a little bit too tempting for me. So when the new, totally redesigned, Lowe Alpine range was released late last year, it was pretty much inevitable that given a few months, I would have bought myself a few things to review. The following is just a small portion of the new Lowe range that can be found at The Wilderness Shop.

Rainwear: The Teton Jacket is a 3 layer waterproof and breathable hardshell jacket which is rugged enough to withstand thorny Australia scrub and the less than perfect Tasmanian weather of my recent trip. There are plenty of pockets and the fabric is stretchy, which allows natural movement inside the jacket. I really like the stiff adjustable brim which allows you to keep out the driving rain. Available in green with grey trim and grey with black trim. Weight 570 grams. RRP \$449.95



Softshell: When the new Perfect Storm jacket & matching Stormforce pants arrived, I convinced myself that I needed some new softshell for the upcoming ski season. They are made from a really stretchy fabric and breathe particularly well, as I found out on a recent overnight walk. Like all softshells they repel water and are a good stop-gap in light rain or short bursts of heavy rain. The hood can be adjusted in several ways which makes for a great fit in foul weather. The stormforce pants are made of the same stretchy fabric. My favourite part of the Stormforce softshell pant is a mesh vent on the side of the leg, which can be zipped open or shut. It is one of the gripes of any pair of pants that even on cold days you're going to get hot walking up long hills. They are available in a women's fit as well, so I think I know what I'll get my partner for her birthday. Perfect Storm jacket 560 grams RRP \$189.95 Stormforce pants 430 grams. \$159.95



Fleece: Like a lot of outdoor people the clothes I buy to wear for bushwalking, skiing or climbing are the same clothes that I wear just about every other day. When I go out for dinner with my parents they usually ask 'don't you own any normal clothes?'. With this in mind I thought I'd buy myself one of the new Lowe Odyssey fleece which has a fancy wool-like finish. So, while it looks really good with a pair of jeans and a menu in your hand it is also a proper outdoor fleece for those cold days and nights. 450 grams RRP \$119.95

Thermals: My old pair of Lowe thermals which had given me great service for many years have been due for retirement for some time. So when the Lowe Dryflo 150 tops came I thought I'd give them a go. Unlike my previous thermals I thought I'd try the zip neck, which I have found to be much more versatile because you can vent them which means you can use them as active wear as well. RRP \$59.95



Gloves: I have been looking for the perfect pair of gloves for riding my bike for many years. Most of the ones I've had in the past are either too bulky and make it harder to handle the bike or, don't block the wind enough. A couple a weeks ago I decided to try the new Lowe Lightflite glove and see how it went. Fantastic. The thin durabric fabric give good feel on the handle bars and they block the wind effectively. RRP \$49.95

Tech Talk: Guide to Julbo 'category' lenses *by Glenn*



Julbo explorer (category: 4 & cameleon 2-4)

We are often asked "what is the difference between the Julbo lenses?" As it turns out there are a lot of differences and for good reason.

Cameleon - This is Julbo's top of the range NXT polymer lens. It is photochromic, anti-fogging and polarising and has been developed for use in mountain and desert environments. Offering protection from intense levels of UV, glare and widely varying light levels. The photochromic range is Category 2 to 4 (20%-5% visible light transmission). Recommended for mountaineering, skiing and Arctic/Antarctic sightseeing.

Spectron 4 - A category 4 lens (5%) the Spectron 4 offers similar properties to the Cameleon but it is not photochromic and is made from polycarbonate. Some models such as the ever popular Explorer come in a choice of Cameleon or Spectron 4 lens, the Spectron being considerably cheaper.

Spectron 3 - A category 3 lens which is similar to the Spectron 4 but transmits more light (13%). Recommended for mountain environments, skiing and water sports.

Zebra - Photochromic, category 2 to 4 (42%-7%) lens with anti fogging treatment. The main difference from the Cameleon is that the Zebra lens is not polarised. Very fast response to light changes. Also available in Zebra Light Category 1 to 3 lens (80%-16%).

Alti Arc 4 & 4+ Mineral lenses - The benchmark for glacier sunglasses, offering superior optical quality, high scratch and shock resistance. Anti-reflective and flash finish coatings eliminate interference glare and strengthen filtration. Burnishing further enhances the filtration of visible light (down to 4%) applied to the Alti Arc 4+ lens.

All Julbo lenses belong to optical class 1 (Zero distortion) and guarantee 100% protection from UVA, B and C rays. Note: All category 4 lenses are not suitable for driving.



Julbo dirt (category 3)



Julbo ultra (category: zebra 1-3)

Trip Review: Warburton Rail Trail

by Troy



Typical scene on the trail

The Warburton Trail makes a great first overnight ride or a relaxed weekend getaway. The riding is generally of an easy standard and is separated from road traffic for its entire length.

On a sunny Saturday morning a friend and I headed out from Lilydale station along the Warburton Rail Trail. The trail gradually climbs out towards Mt Evelyn, then undulates through bush, farmland and small townships along the 37km to Warburton.

The train line used to carry local farm produce, timber and tourists before its closure in 1965. The Lilydale to Warburton Rail Trail officially opened in 1998 and it is now busy with cyclists on all types of bikes, horse riders and walkers.

The trail ends by the cool banks of the Yarra, where we ate, drank and dozed in the afternoon sunshine. The ride is a few hours riding each way and there are options to detour into towns or stop at a number of cafes and bakeries.

Once in Warburton, there is plenty of accommodation, from camping in the caravan park to luxury B&B's. We were meeting a friend at the caravan park who had just come to explore some of the short walks around Warburton, including the River Walk and La La Falls.

If you're unsure of committing to a longer trip or whether or not bike touring may be for you then I recommend you grab your bike and check out this short escape from the city.

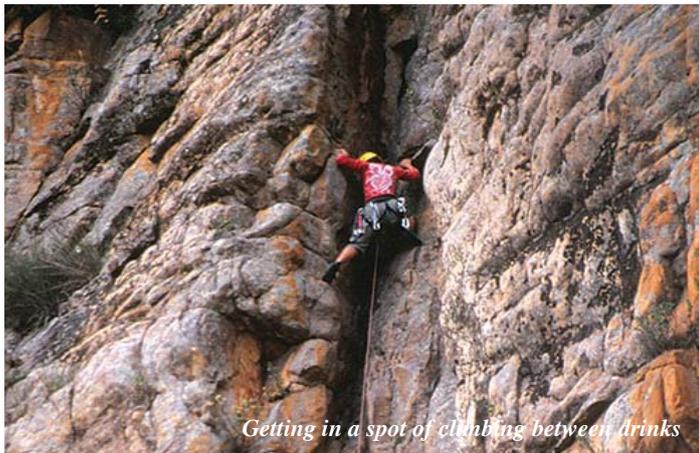
More information on the Warburton Trail can be found in *Rail Trails of Victoria* rrp \$35 and *Where to Ride Melbourne* rrp 34.95.



Time for a rest

Event: 50 years of climbing at Arapiles

by Mac

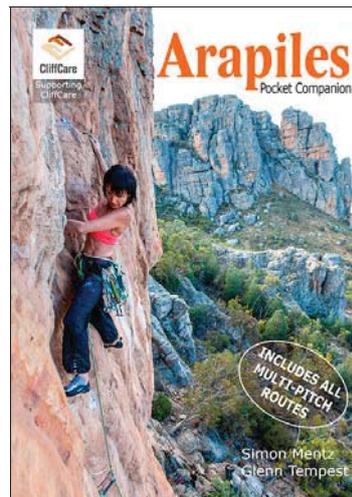


Getting in a spot of climbing between drinks

This year marks the milestone of 50 years of climbing at Mt. Arapiles. Many climbers across the world still think of Arapiles as one of, if not THE best crag in the world. With its smooth but bulging quartzite, the climbing is varied and technical and the positions you find yourself in are spectacular.

The gathered crowds in The Pines enjoyed a series of events to celebrate this momentous occasion including displays of old gear and photographs, murals showing a montage of The Mounts' history and a talk and slideshow by climbers from differing generations.

Peter Jackson, one of the climbers with the vision to open up some of the classic climbs at Arapiles such as the Watchtower Crack (16) on the Right Watchtower Face, summed up what is a lingering feeling in the back of most climbers minds when climbing at Arapiles saying that the place has 'a presence'. I find that this is what has made me keep going back there for the last 22 years more so than the climbing. I feel a connection with the place and hope that others who discover Arapiles for themselves are also able to make this connection.



New Arapiles Pocket Companion rrp \$19.95

Glenn Tempest and Simon Mentz have done it again! Their new Pocket Companion is a masterful piece of work containing over 750 routes and 50 photo topos. Being small enough to fit in your back pocket you can take the guide with you on long multi pitches but it is still packed full of route information. Best of all is the price at \$19.95, so even if you have the larger Arapiles Selected Climbs it makes a great addition to your library.

What's New: Red Chili Durango

by Glenn



Cool, clean and very adaptable: the Durango VCR is a durable and solid all-rounder letting you move through the grades - indoors or outdoors. Best value with a comfortable fit.

It features wider, more supportive VCR straps that both embrace the foot and allow the firm platform of the shoe to maximize performance over a wide variety of styles. It has a broad toe and medium last accepting a wide range of feet yet still retains an edge for more delicate and precise action. RRP \$129