

## HFNC excursion to Childers Cove & Murnanes Bay – report for 23 May 2015

Diane Luhrs

The day started with an 8.50 am departure from the Hamilton Visitor Centre with Ken Grimes, Janeen Samuel, Peter Hocking, Ross Simpson, Diane Luhrs, Rod Bird and new comers Charlotte Davy & Frank Crawford, driving to Peshurst to meet up with David & Lyn Munro. We all made our way independently to Allansford to meet for morning tea at Cheeseworld. Karen & Christopher Simpson joined our group there. Diane & Rod led the convoy through dairying country to Childers Cove.

We stopped at three places along the road to Childers Cove. Each place provided great views over the coves and the tertiary (20 million year-old) limestone cliffs covered with 1 million-year-old dune sediments. Our first stop was at the walk down to the beach east from Murnanes Bay. That enabled us to observe the different layers, and sediments that had filled in sink holes and erosion gaps.

Our next stop was at Childers Cove, where we met with Ivor & Ruth Graney and their friends Mary & Pat from Benalla. We walked down the steps to the cove and found some waves sending water almost to the cliff base. Back on top, we walked along the cliff trail and peered into the large sink hole on the left. There were some interesting tracks in the wet sand on the floor of this sink hole. We walked further on for a view of the cove and coastline.

We had lunch at Murnanes Bay, followed by a walk down the stairs to the cove and later an enjoyable walk in the sun from the picnic area over the cliff top, for great views along the coast to the east.

Very few species of birds were seen but those included: Black-faced Cormorants, Silver Gulls, Brown Falcon, Peregrine Falcon, Singing Honeyeater, Superb Fairy-wren, Striated Fieldwren Common Skylark. We also saw a Swamp Rat (*Rattus lutreolus*) that ventured out from cover at the edge of the picnic ground, and flowering Coastal Beard Heath.

We had 16 people on this outing – one of the largest groups for our excursions in a long while. It was a great day with every one enjoying visiting an unfamiliar place and the sunshine after lunch.

*First lookout to cliffs and beach east of Murnanes Bay – Black-faced Cormorants and Silver Gulls*



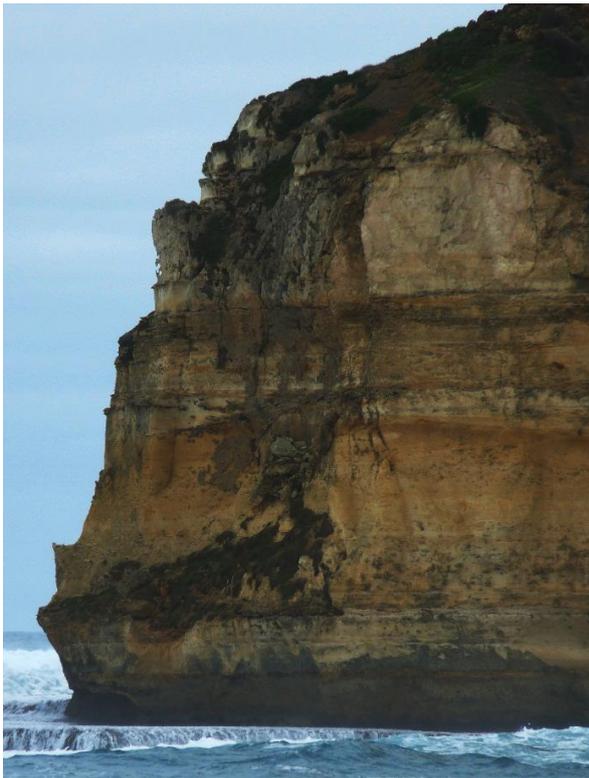
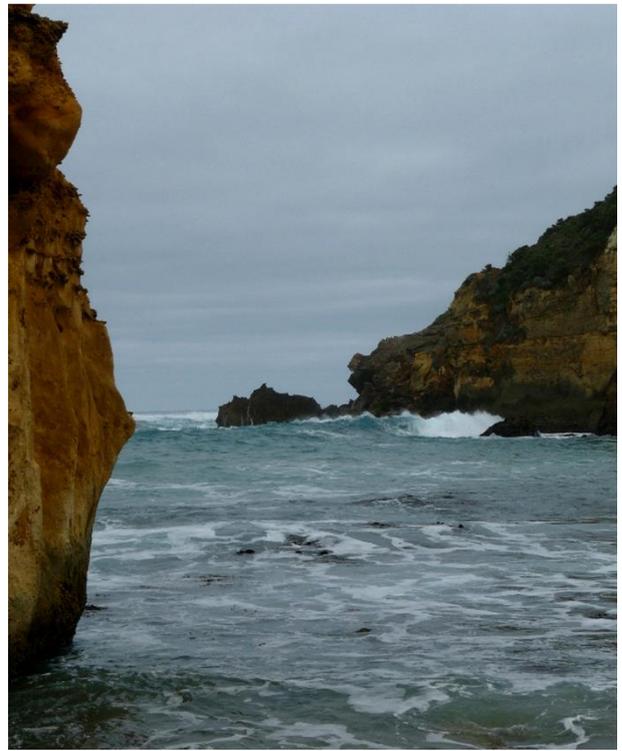
*Wind-blown dunal sediments overlying Tertiary limestone deposited in the ocean.*



*What is this? A petrified camel?*



*Childers Cove*



*Ken points out the geology*



*Views of the entrance to the cove.*



*Sink hole at Childers Cove & tracks on the floor*



*View of Childers Cove entrance from the cliff*



*Looking over Murnanes Bay to Childers Cove*



*Murnanes Bay*



*Cliff top at Murnanes Bay*



*Looking east from Murnanes Bay cliff top*



*Some of the group enjoying the views, with Ken and Ruth (in her fetching crochet hat) in the foreground.*