



Date: Tuesday, 17 May 2005  
Page Number: 19  
Edition: First  
Supplement: Main

Market: VIC Melbourne SE Suburbs  
Circulation: 58,809  
Published: WEEKLY  
Editorial: [email the editor](mailto:editor@hastingsindependent.com.au)  
Item No: P6074908

Size: 259.63 sq. cm.



**LYNNE Murrell walked Victoria's coast from west to east and now advocates a coastal trail.**

# Talking the walk for coastal trail

By **FRAN HENKE**

COAST walker Lynne Murrell says his feet have barely hit the ground since completing his 101 day walk around the Victorian coastline.

Last week Mr Murrell met Environment Minister John Thwaites to report on his journey and said the minister is very keen to establish a coastal trail to encourage others to follow in his footsteps.

Lynne left the South Australian border on January 4 reaching the border with New South Wales on April 16 - a week earlier than expected.

"I think I was like a horse bolting for home," he laughed. "I was joined by my wife, daughter and friends and as the sun set we cracked a bottle of bubbly at the obelisk. I finished fit and well, feeling a mixture of relief and sadness."

Lynne Murrell found the coastline was "world class" and "in good condition most of the way".

It was under pressure at the "urban/rural interface", he said, and that included the Mornington Peninsula.

This did not mean preventing further development, just managing it better, said the former mayor of Portland and coastal conservationist.

Mr Murrell said Western Port had a special beauty and it would be a challenge to protect its natural qualities.

He ran into some of his toughest challenges in the mangroves out of Hastings, recording in his diary that to cross one of the drains at Lang Lang he had to build a temporary log bridge or face turning back to find the road. He was able to cross the 'bridge'

just, before it disappeared into the mud.

This was the day after Lynne Murrell took part in the Western Port Festival, leading the Hastings Day Parade with other marathon walkers. On Frankston beach he had met Cr Barry Priestley and his wife, then ran into them again in East Gippsland at Pearl Point.

Wilson's Promontory also presented difficulties: getting his phone wet thus losing his lifeline of communication, annoyed by insects, and finding the trail in swamps that had already claimed lives.

At Tamboon Inlet he found God: "I started longing for a cold beer. After setting up camp at the inlet I found a cool 'live' beer can floating in the water. There is a God," he recorded in his online diary ([www.walkthetalk.ws](http://www.walkthetalk.ws)).

His lasting impression is of Victoria's good fortune in its coastal wilderness.

Lynne Murrell is now much in demand for meetings and talks with coastal managers and busy writing a report for Mr Thwaites on the potential for a coastal trail.

"The idea is to link existing walks and I've proved it can be done with few obstacles and minimal spending," he said.

The capes - Schanck and Liptrapp - were not particularly problematic, their cliffs can be walked around at low tide or avoided by using the cliff paths, he said.

The whole coastal trail could be achieved with minimal cost and education programs. The boardwalks would be the most expensive, he believed.

Lynne Murrell hopes to come back with his wife to thank the many people who helped him but this time it will be by car.