



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

August 2010

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 13 Oct 2010

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Street Capalaba

President's Report

Another month has passed and more wonderful walks have been recorded.

Our last Club meeting saw the completion of the Photographic competition and what an excellent job everybody did. Thank you to the committee Jo, Laurel, Sue and Mike for all their work. And thank you to all the members who took part in the competition and entered photos. A great range of different photos were viewed by many.

Thank you to the seven people who attended the Pilgrimage and represented Redland Bushwalking Club. It sounded as if you had a wonderful time and also discovered some new walks for us all to experience at a later date.

Exciting news from FMR that there will be a navigational training day for us all to attend if we so choose. I would encourage this as it is a huge advantage when out in the bush.

Errol is trying to encourage people to have a go at abseiling, so if you have been thinking about it, have a go. Very experienced trainers and expert equipment is used at all times.

Not long now till our Christmas party and Kerrie is working very hard at making it a fun filled weekend.

Thanks to the committee for a continued great job.

Wishing you all the very best for your walks and holidays wherever they may take you.

Happy walking
Denise - President

Upcoming Activities

What: Christmas camp
Where: Spring Gully Stays, Canungra
When: Fri 19 – Sun 21 November
Leader: Kerrie Coulter

Registrations are now open for our Christmas camp so it's time to book and select your accommodation. There are a limited number of on-site safari tents, so get in quick to secure one. Other options are your own tent or camper.

Cost: \$20 per person (\$15 if paid by 31 Oct) for the weekend (see what you get below), and \$10/person/night for a camp site or \$20/person/night for a safari tent.

If you haven't been to our Christmas camp before you are in for a fun time! We have games, walks, swimming, lots of activities and also a live band to entertain us on Saturday night. So pack your dancing shoes (grass friendly) and bring your fun party hat!!

This is the catering program:

Friday: bring your own evening meal and drinks, and nibbles to share for happy hour.

Saturday night: bring your own meat/fish/drinks. The Club provides salad, rolls and dessert.

Sunday morning: the Club provides pancakes and toast for breakfast.

All weekend: the Club provides coffee, tea and biscuits.

For registration, bookings and or for more information contact Kerrie on 3822 7259 or coulterk@netspace.net.au

Below is a quick overview of some of the upcoming walks. Please remember to check the website and contact the leader in case there's been a change of plans.

Where: Pt Pure, Glen Rock nr Gatton.

Through walk: medium-hard

When: 11-12 Sept

Leader: Mats Andersson

This is a fairly new area for Club walks and is well worth exploring. The walk will involve some steep uphill and spectacular views.

Where: Mt Maroon

Day walk: Medium

When: 12 Sept

Leader: Jillian Wilson

Anyone who is capable and hasn't yet tried Mt Maroon is encouraged to sign up for this one. Its rocks and vegetation, particularly at the top, are well worth the steepish climb and scramble.

Where: Lizard Point via Mt Bell, nr Teviot

Through walk: medium-hard

When: 18 – 19 September

Leader: Judy Moody-Stuart and Tracy Ryan

This is a moderate-hard through walk in spectacular Main Range country. Judy and Tracy are reasonably confident they'll be able to find their way to Lizard Point where we will overnight at a rather nice little campsite.

Where: Mt Cordeaux, Cunningham's Gap
When: 26 Sept
Leader: Hilary Martyn

Day walk: easy/medium

Hilary loves doing this walk, which is a must on any bushwalker's calendar. It is the peak on the northern side of Cunningham's Gap, and the view is as imposing as the peak.

Where: Eddie Santagiuliana Way
When: 25 Sept
Leader: Denise Kolcze

Social walk

Where: King Island, Wellington Point
When: 2 Oct
Leader: Denise Kolcze

Social walk

Where: Moon View Gorge
When: 2-3 Oct
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Base camp: easy/medium/hard

This is also an area the Club doesn't often get to, so take advantage of leader Ted's huge experience and come along. There will be various walks tailored to the participants.

Where: Mt May-Mt Maroon, nr Mt Barney
When: 9-10 Oct

Through walk: medium-hard

Leader: Judy Moody-Stuart (judy@moody-stuart.net) and Tracy Ryan (prestonhome@iinet.net.au)

This is a new through-walk for Judy and Tracy, although they have both explored the area fairly well over the years. Mt May was totally burnt out last time they went there about a year ago, so this time should provide an interesting contrast as the vegetation will have well and truly begun to grow back.

Stop press!

What: Navigation training weekend
Where: Mt Barney Lodge
When: 6-7 November
Leader: Federation of Mountain Rescue (FMR)

Many of the Club's recent survey respondents said they wanted to know more about navigation. So how timely was the FMR's announcement that it was running a navigation training weekend in November! This will be an excellent weekend with some very experienced walkers sharing their skills and expertise. It will cover basic to advanced navigation, so don't be deterred if you know nothing or a lot: this is definitely the weekend for you. It will cost about \$90 and this will include camping fees.

If you are interested, contact Tracy Ryan at prestonhome@iinet.net.au, 0417665382 or 3286 4759 as she is coordinating our Club's attendance. If you want more information, contact FMR: fmrqld@gmail.com.



Activity Reports

Where: Mt Doughboy, nr Mt Warning
When: 5 Sept 2010
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Despite the threat of a heavy deluge predicted by the weather forecasters, we decided to go and camp at the Mt Warning Holiday Park. Nikki, Graham, Alison, Judy, Betty, Jillian and Rebecca all arrived Saturday afternoon and set up tents under threatening skies. After a cuppa, we decided to stroll down the road to the river, where we played among the rocks for a short time. Back at camp it was time for nibbles and drinks. We had lit a fire and prepared our dinners. The rain held off until well into the night, but we had only light showers.

The decision to proceed to the mountains was made the next morning, as the predicted heavy rain had not arrived. A half hour drive via Uki and Doon Doon soon had us on the private lands. The owners appeared to be out, but as we had prior permission to climb the mountain, we proceeded across the fields.



The mountain is a mix of rock scree, rainforest and cliff faces. We slowly climbed up the western ridge and skirted beside many of the steep rock slabs. Only one rock slab near the summit required a safety rope due to the previous nights rain. We left our packs on the summit and scrambled across a narrow ridge to a slightly lower northern summit. The views were fantastic with low clouds shrouding Mt Jerusalem and the Nightcap ranges to the south and Mt Warning to the north. We were all wet due to the humidity and the slight drizzle encountered on the way up, so headed back to our packs for morning tea and shelter from the cool winds.

We used the rope again on descending and arrived back at our cars at about midday.

The owners of the property, Anna and Tim, were home and I went up to thank them. It turned out that they had not heard our arrival despite the dogs barking and me shouting out at the front door. We obtained permission to camp on their farm next time and could cross their lands to try a different way to Mt Jerusalem. We did not go to Mt Jerusalem as the tracks across a neighbouring farm was too wet and it was getting late in the day. We stopped at Uki for a coffee and lunch before proceeding home. Despite the gloomy forecast we all had a great weekend

Report: Ted Wassenberg



Where: Glen Rock, nr Gatton
When: Aug 2010
Leader: Mats Andersson

Channel your inner cow!

We were six intrepid expeditioners who left Redlands at the very civilised hour of 8:30 on Saturday, heading for the unknown, i.e. to find out if there were any decent coffee shops in Gatton. After some searching, we found one, promising old fashioned hospitality. This proved to be the only kind of hospitality they could offer as they moved so slowly that the time was 8:56AM on January 24, 1963 inside the café (Fred Stolle had just won the Australian Open, according to the RCA Victor wireless).

After enjoying this loooooong brunch, we drove into the gathering storm clouds towards Glen Rock Regional Park. We were heading into the Blackfellow Creek Valley, crisscrossing the creek numerous times. By the time we arrived at our lunch spot, it had started to rain, so we headed for the shelter in the cattle yards. The story repeated itself when we were having afternoon tea, the rain began again, - head for the upper cattle yards for shelter. By 4PM, we were at our campsite. We set up camp, and chatted through the evening until very late, 8:15 at least!



On Sunday morning we headed across the creek, and up a spur, quite steep in places, but everywhere you wanted to go, some kind cow had made an easily walked path. I had two tentative routes across the top, either straight along a compass bearing, or following the line of ridges. The cow trails headed along the compass bearing, but I did not take the hint, and we headed along the ridges into scunge hell. I ask you this: Have you ever seen cows ploughing through vines, nettles, raspberry, Gympie Gympie and fallen logs? Well, neither have I.

After some hours of scratching around in the undergrowth, we popped out into the open, where we could take a GPS reading, and yes, we were way out! (I took a while to be convinced.) We quickly found a way down to my original compass bearing, and after some more rainforest, not as bad this time, we ended up on the ridge we had been aiming for all day.



And yes, here in the lovely open eucalypt forest, dotted with grass trees, were cow paths everywhere. Cows are intelligent, sensitive creatures, with an eye for beautiful vistas, so if you want a nice walk, channel your inner cow!

We now had to race the setting sun along the steep ridges, across the very narrow razorback, up to the last knoll, where you have sweeping 360 degree views over Blackfellow Creek and Flaggy Creek valleys. From here we hurried along, down towards the valley floor, on tracks kindly provided by our bovine guides.

By the time we reached the cars, it was dark.

Walkers: Tracy, Judy, Betty, Jillian, Laurel, and Mats.
Report: Mats

Where: Girraween, nr Stanthorpe
When: August long weekend
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

When we arrived on Friday night, most of the others were already there, but their tents were scattered over the Castle Rock Campground. Judy and I set our tents near Tracy and Nigel's tent in the main area, while Nikki and Graham had their tent near Marnie and Heather's tents in individual sites. We did all get together on Saturday morning and Marnie and Heather decided to climb the pyramid while the rest of us set off for Mt Norman. This was Nikki and Graham's first visit to Girraween and they set off at a brisk pace with Nikki leading the way up the granite slabs.



On arriving at Mt Norman, Graham, Judy and I climbed up into the eye of the needle and Tracy recorded the event with her new camera. Graham relished the experience of the climb, as he had never climbed before. Next, we explored the caverns below Mt Norman and then skirted around to the south side of the mountain. Here there is a steep crevice that leads to the summit. I set up a rope to aid everyone to scale the lower slab and up into the crevice. This tested Nikki, who was a bit nervous, but she made it to the top.

On the descent, everyone was belayed over the lower slab, as there was a bit of exposure. We set off back to camp and had lunch near some large boulders. After lunch we explored around the base of the boulders (the size of 3 storey houses) and found a tunnel carved by water below the boulders that ran for well over 50m. Tracy and Judy set off down this tunnel with me close behind until it became too small for me, but not the girls. They went on for another 20m before turning back. We were back at camp before 4 pm, so that everyone could have a shower before it got too cold. Steve had arrived that afternoon and set up his tent near ours. Marnie and Heather had shifted their tents close to ours as well. We had dinner around a campfire – set in the BBQ - as open fires are now banned at Girraween. The night was cold (-4 degrees C) and there was ice on everything next morning.

Sunday morning, we all set off for the underground river and the Aztec temple. The river was flowing full and we detoured around the cliffs to get to the other side where the water went under the rocks. In previous years, the water had been low and we could get through under the boulders. From the pool upstream from the underground river, we headed SE to the Aztec temple – an area of enormous Tors and boulders scattered over a low hill. We briefly explored the area and then had morning tea. We had to return to the cars early as Nikki and Graham had to leave for Brisbane. We said goodbye and then headed to Dr Robert's water holes. These too were full of water.

A quick stop at camp, for various reasons, and we drove from the campsite to the start of an obscure track that led to the 'Junction'. Here we found a good flow of water in Bald Rock creek. We had lunch on the rocky slabs of the creek, while admiring the contrast of water, rock slabs and the yellow wattles on the adjacent shores. As it was such a rare sight to see so much water, we decided to follow the creek upstream back to the campsite. Tracy, later, drove us back to collect our cars. The latter part of the afternoon was spent lazing around camp or strolling among the boulders on the slopes adjacent to the campground. Again, we had dinner around a campfire, but the night was not as cold as the previous night.

Monday morning and everyone had a different agenda. Steve left early for a detour drive home, Tracy and Nigel had to depart by ten and Marnie and Heather wanted to explore some local hills while Judy and I set off for the Sphinx and the Turtle. When we returned at 11am, everyone had left and we followed suit.

The highlight of the trip was the plethora of wild flowers, the abundance of yellow wattles and purple and white bushes. The low light was the attack of the birds at camp particularly the diving kookaburras who twice stole Nigel's food from his hands before he could put it in his mouth. Thanks Judy, Tracy, Marnie, Heather, Nikki, Graham, Nigel and Steve for making it a memorable and enjoyable weekend.

Report: Ted Wassenberg

QUEENSLAND BUSHWALKING CLUBS

Annual Pilgrimage Report

20 - 22 August 2010

The Pilgrimage is an annual bushwalking and social event attracting members of affiliated clubs from throughout the south-east corner of the state and sometimes further afield. It is usually held at a campground, and this year the hosts, Toowoomba Bushwalkers, held it at the Crows Nest showgrounds. On the Saturday about 15 walks were open to all comers, and on Saturday night there was a bush dance. Other social activities were organised throughout the weekend.

Seven RBW members went, and they made it their mission to go on different walks so they could report back on the area, and also consider potential walks for our Club's calendar. The walks were a highlight of the weekend, as many of us had never explored that area before. None were especially difficult, and most took full advantage of the flora (plenty of flowers at this time of year).

The bush dance was at the local RSL, and despite being right next to a polling station, many of us managed to remain blissfully ignorant of the outcome of the Federal election until we got home on Sunday.

On the Sunday morning there was the usual presidents' meeting, and Mats and Tracy attended on behalf of Denise. The key issues included: attracting younger members (very interesting discussion), insurance, and training opportunities. Ted (pres of FMR) gave a presentation about FMR's doings.

We're now thinking about planning a base camp in the Toowoomba area next year, and inviting the Toowoomba Club members to join us and show us some more of their favourite walks.

There is also a suggestion that next year the Pilgrimage will be combined with the Festival of Walks as a trial.

Watch this space!

Where: Bike ride Birkdale-Wynnum north and return
When: 14 August
Leader: Kerrie Coulter

A very crisp morning embraced Anne, Vivien, Leah, Narelle, Kevin and me at 7.30am at the Aquatic Paradise park. Riding was in order to warm the bones up and within an hour the sun was lovely and bright. There were not many people around so the ride was very enjoyable. We all had a nice ride cruising the bikeway up to the wetlands and then returned back to the park for a quick snack and drink.

Thank you everyone for a relaxing change of activity.

Report: Kerrie

Where: Somerset trail, Mt Mee
When: 1 August
Leader: Kerrie Coulter

Nineteen very willing and able walkers arrived on a crisp morning all keen to start the day. Travelling through the three different kinds of tree life, rainforest, pine & gum, we were delighted to see so many flowering natives. It was a very clear day and could see the wonderful views to Somerset & Wivanhoe Dams. Lunch was had back at the Gantry picnic grounds. Majority of walkers dined at the Bakery for a good hot drink. All in all everyone had a very nice day.

Thank you for your delightful company!

Report: Kerrie

Where: Mooball National Park, NSW
When: 5 Sept
Leader: Kevin Blain

There were eight of us for what was the inaugural walk in this national park, just over the border in N.S.W. After meeting at Murwillumbah railway station, we followed Kevin Blain to our starting point, about 15k south of the town.

The day was misty and often light rain fell, but this did make much of the forest beautiful. Giant ferns and pale-trunked eucalypts impressed our American walker, Bill. We walked uphill on the Burringbar Range, at the top of which was a trig. station – Kevin explained its former use and significance.

Shortly after that, due to a slight miscalculation of right and left, the challenge of the day occurred. This involved staying on one's feet whilst executing a steep, or perhaps precipitous, climb (for some, slide) down the wooded mountainside to the road well below. Some arrived at the road clean and in an upright position, others a study in mud and scratches. We then gratefully ate morning tea, and, re-fuelled, continued up this wide track, with lovely forest either side and glimpses of farmland, plus distant mountains, across the deep valleys.

The road through this pristine bush made the going a pleasure: from a hill on Wabba Road the view on a fine day would be expansive. But even though sunshine may have been welcome, the patches of mist made the forest glistening, gentle and magical. We returned from this 14k walk via Baranbali Road, at the cars changing our muddy (in one case leech-filled) boots; then followed coffee in Murwillumbah – with large carrot-cake helpings.

It was a memorable day in very good company with Kevin, Bob, Jack, Michael, Bill, Richard and Adam – even though one of our number attracted clay and whole leech families. Many thanks to Kevin for organising it.

Report: Libby Westacott



This is not the end: please keep reading below!

As promised in the last newsletter, we're following up on many of the questions and issues raised when we did our recent survey about leaders and leading Club activities. One of the issues raised was the purpose of **contact officers**, what information they needed to do their job, and whose responsibility it was to provide it to them. Here we go:

Why do we have CONTACT OFFICERS?

Contact officers are essential safety tools used by most clubs like ours. Basically, their role is to raise the alarm if a party goes missing or something horrible happens. If you've ever heard TV reports about missing bushwalkers, the searchers will often say "so and so raised the alarm when the missing people weren't back by their expected time". So who knew to raise the alarm and where to direct the searchers? – their **contact officer**, of course! If the group went out without leaving information with a contact officer, the searchers can waste valuable time and effort trying to work out how many people are missing and where they went.

It is the **activity leader's** responsibility to ask somebody to be their activity's **contact officer**. This can be a family member or another Club member. It is also the **activity leader's** responsibility to make sure the **contact officer** has:

- A copy of the *Activity Nomination Form* with the list of participants and their emergency contact details (NOT the walkers' mobile numbers). This is so the **contact officer** can ring the families if necessary.
- Copy of *Hazard and Risk Management Plan*
- Vehicle registration numbers if known, or at least one rego number. This is because one of the first things searchers do is look for the missing walkers' cars to make sure they are indeed in the area they are supposed to be missing in.
- Route plan, ideally map with route displayed, and showing alternate or escape routes
- Estimated time of return.

It is also the **activity leader's** responsibility to:

- Put the name and phone number of the **contact officer** on the *Activity Nomination Form* and other paperwork.
- Let the **contact officer** know if possible if somebody doesn't start the walk on the day.
- Ring the **contact officer** when the activity is finished and everybody is accounted for.
- Make sure the **contact officer** knows what to do (see below) if they don't hear from the **activity leader** by an agreed time.

It is the **walk participants'** responsibility to:

- Put an emergency contact phone number on the *Activity Nomination Form*.
- Give the name and phone number of the **contact officer** to a relevant person (ie somebody who cares if they go missing).

It is the **contact officer's** responsibility to:

- Keep a list of names and contact numbers of all **walk participants**
- Alert the Club Safety and Training Officer of any major incident reported by the **activity leader**
- Alert the Club Safety and Training Officer if an **activity leader** has not made contact within 4 hours of the expected finish time of the activity (usually about 9pm).
- Relay all communications between the **activity leader**, members of the walk party, their relatives and rescue organisations
- If the Safety and Training Officer is not available, to initiate contact with police and rescue organizations
 - On the advice of the **activity leader**
 - If the **activity leader** does not advise successful completion of the activity within 12 hours of the expected finish time
 - In other situations at the **contact officer's** discretion

