

Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

website: <http://www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au>

email: redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com

P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

July 2010

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 12th August 2010

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Street Capalaba

Closing Day for Photography Competition Plus Mystery Guest Speaker

President's Report

Hi fellow bushwalkers, what an excellent attendance we had at the last meeting. At the moment we have 112 financial members.

Thankyou Bill for the wonderful informative slide show about the Camino Track, in Spain. It was very interesting to hear about the history behind the pilgrimage walk.

Welcome back to Hilary R, Betty, Narelle, Jillian and Alison who have just finished some incredible walks that we will hopefully get to hear about in the future.

On the Warrie Circuit walk which Steve Tolcher lead, there was an accident where a man from another group broke his ankle. I am very proud to say that Redland Bushwalkers on that walk assisted the man by moving him to higher warmer ground, this alone was hard going over uneven larger rocks, lent their space blanket, their mats and there was one mobile phone that was able to get a signal and this was used to call the SES, the phone was also left with the family incase they needed it on their return.

Thankyou Steve and all the other walkers for your wonderful assistance on that day.

Please do not forget to put an emergency contact name and number on the Activity Nomination Form. Also a registration of at least one car needs to be left with the contact officer.

We have equipment for you to borrow. It is there to be used at no cost to you unless it comes back damaged. There are tents, poles, mats, packs. Our equipment officer is Denise Mitchell.

Newsletter is there for you all to read about past walks and the fun they may have had. There is also an opportunity for the upcoming walk leaders to put in about their walk, eg. time of meeting, distance, easy or hard, track or off-track walk. This helps immensely when you are unable to get to the meeting to hear about the walk.

If you are going on holidays I wish you every happiness and safety with your journey.

Happy walking
Denise - President

Upcoming Activities

Where: Girraween **Base Camp:** Various Levels
When: Weekend starting Friday 6th- 9th August
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Ted is running a base camp at Girraween this weekend Friday 6th-9th August. We will be camping Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. Monday is a holiday for those working in the Redlands.

We will be camping at Castle Rock Camp Ground at Girraween National Park (Pyramids Road, Girraween – 26k south of Stanthorpe). Camping fees are \$5.00 per night and you can self register and pay when you get there. There are shower and toilet facilities but bring your own drinking water. It can get very cold there at night so come prepared with warm clothes and sleeping bag.

Walks will depend on who is coming but there are a range of easy/medium/harder walks. Anybody interested who hasn't already signed up, please ring Ted on 3286 2817 for more information.

Where: First Aid Course
When: 18th September 2010 8:30 – 12:30 – 1pm
Leader: Kerrie Coulter

You are invited to attend the First Aid Course with the club subsidizing half the cost, normally \$140.00 but for members just \$70.00.

This course was well received last year and we the committee have decided to place it again on our calendar.

If you would like to attend please either phone or email Kerrie (coulterk@netspace.net.au) and pay your money **by August meeting**. Please give email details for the on-line training as needs to be completed before the day. If you do not have email access you will be given a handbook to complete and take with you to the training day.

For those that did the First Aid training last year you need to update your CPR yearly this will be arranged in the early part of 2011.

I look forward to hearing from you as we all should know what to do out in the bush, so we can assist anyone in difficulty.

Where: Birkdale to Wynnum **Bike Ride: Easy/Medium**
When: Saturday 14th August
Leader: Kerry Coulter **Ph 3822 7259**

The bike ride will be starting at Birkdale from the Aquatic Paradise end on the waterfront at the playground area at 7.30am. We will be cycling up around Thorneside through mangrove boardwalk to Lota, through Manly then up to Wynnum North and then return. Pedestrians and animals are our main competition on the pathways. We will be returning to have a morning tea where we started, bring snack and drink as there is no café. This is a good steady ride but up hill on the way home.

Where: Byron Gorge Mt Mee **Day Walk: Medium +**
When: Sunday 15th August
Leader: Jillian Wilson **Ph 3824 5966**

The Bushrangers Walk has been replaced with Byron Gorge at Mt Mee, this is a medium to hard day-walk that takes approx 6hrs. We follow fire trails into the forest, then a side creek down to Byron Creek, rock hopping and scrambling around waterfalls. Then we follow the creek up the gorge scrambling over huge boulders before coming to 'Cleopatra's Spa' where we rest before heading out on a steep trail that meets up with the Somerset Trail, which we follow back to the car park.

Where: Daves Creek **Day Walk: Easy**
When: Sunday 15th August
Leader: Steve Tolcher **Ph 3207 6732**

This walk is 12klm long but it is a easy walk it should take about 4-5 hours. We start on the border track and turn of after 2.3 klm and descend through the head of Nixon creek. There are two very nice lookouts to take photos at we will then have lunch at surprise rock. Before heading back to meet up with the boarder track then back to the carpack. Meeting at the top Carpark at Binna Burra at 8:00 am.

QUEENSLAND BUSHWALKING CLUBS ANNUAL Pilgrimage

Fri 20th to Sun 22nd August 2010

About <http://www.bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/pilgrimage.html>

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 venue and on the Saturday you can join one of many daywalks through the surrounding areas. A Bush Dance and other social activities are organised throughout the weekend and it is an ideal time to meet and renew friendships with fellow bushwalkers. The activity is run on a non-profit basis.

2010

This year the pilgrimage is hosted by the **Toowoomba Bushwalkers Club Inc.** at the Crows Nest Show Grounds (see **How To Get There** for more details) between the 20th and 22nd August.

Registration

All attendees must be members of their respective clubs and therefore insured.
Cost will be \$25.00 per adult with an early bird special of \$20 (if paid by 8-Aug-2010).
Children under 15 - free.
Fees will need to be mailed in with the appropriate registration form.

Where: **Mooball National Park – Northern NSW.** **Day Walk: Medium**
When: **Sunday 5th September 2010**
Leader: **Kevin Blain**

This park is located on the Burringbar Range which is part of the eastern edge of Mt Warning caldera and is south of Murwillumbah. The walk is easy to moderate, approximately 10 klm with views to the coast and Macpherson Range. Mount Jerusalem National Park and Clarrie Hall Dam will also be visited if time permits.
Meet at Murwillumbah Railway Station, 8.30 am.

Where: **Clarence River Canoe Trip**
When: **11th – 19th September**
Leader: **Kevin Blain**

Preliminary notice is given for this trip to enable time for organisation of canoes. This trip will be spread over a week covering two weekends to provide several options for anyone wanting to participate.

Initially the trip will commence some 55 klm up river from Grafton and then proceed down river, in stages, to Grafton over three days. Various entry and exit points are available to enable people to join or exit as time permits. Other suitable canoe locations are available for people who will have extra time available.

The canoeing location may have some minor gravel races to negotiate but will not pose any great difficulty and can be easily walked if necessary. Safety consideration will be paramount for this trip. This trip is open to any member who wants to try an extended canoe trip in protected waters.

The trip is also open to any member who wants to come but not take part in the canoe activities. Some extra people would be handy to help with vehicle shuffles. There is some excellent easy to moderate walks in the location for non-canoeists.

If you want to take part in the activity please sign up on the sheet at the meeting.

Kevin Blain

OTHER WALKS AND ACTIVITIES WILL BE EXPLAINED AT THE MEETING OR
PHONE THE LEADER AS PER CALENDAR

Activity Reports

Where: Savages Ridge Mt. Barney
When: 3rd July
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

On Saturday afternoon Judy, Ted and Betty headed to Mt Barney Lodge to camp the night and check that the mountain was still looking good. A chilly night with a good fire, a glass of red and warm sleeping bags prepared us for the big day to follow.

After a quick breakfast on Sunday morning we headed to Yellow Pinch where our visitor, Lance, a good walker and friend of Ted's from way back when (Those were the days my friend.....) emerged from his car to join us. Soon after we were met by early birds Errol and Phil, who had driven out that morning.

Our crew of six was ready by 7am and we headed out at a cracking pace, passing the route up to SE Ridge and then following Cronan Creek to just west of Egan Creek from where we headed north west up Savages Ridge, initially following an overgrown track and pushing through bush as the path faded in and out.



Descending from Savages Knoll

Before too long we encountered our first bit of rock scrambling where opinions differed as to the best approach. One member of the group thought they had a better route than the others which then necessitated the use of Judy's rope. Not long after we took a short break to enjoy the views to Mt Lindesay, Mt Earnest and Peasant's Ridge. We continued upwards to Savages Knoll where we had smoko and took in the view of West Peak in its full glory. Ooohh were we heading up there!!!!

From the knoll we climbed down a steep section scrambled over and around rock to the saddle between Savages Knoll and West Peak. Pushing through scunge, with tiny purple wildflowers peeking through and bumping into hidden obstacles we finally reached the precipitous chimney leading to the ascent to West Peak where Ted and Errol climbed up to attach ropes to assist the rest of the group. After a final short scramble through slippery grass we reached the summit of West Peak in time for lunch. We enjoyed the magnificent views with not a cloud in sight and a very different perspective of East Peak.

With some deliberation and a few false starts we negotiated the steep descent to Rum Jungle. At one stage Judy's pack seemed to be in a greater hurry to reach Rum Jungle than she was and had to be hauled back by Ted.

We took a quick break at the Rum Jungle camp site followed by a wee bit of up and then it was all down from there. The Giant's Staircase, an exposed rocky slab, a palm filled gully and an old logging road were some of the features we enjoyed on the trek down the South (Peasant's) Ridge.

A few old war wounds manifested themselves on the downhill section necessitating a few jelly bean/log rest breaks but we still managed to reach the cars by dusk.

Thank you Ted for once again leading a magnificent but demanding walk. Another great day on this beautiful and rugged mountain.

If Judy hadn't misplaced her watch and Betty her glasses, times in this report may have been more detailed.

Reporter - Betty Murray

Editor - Judy Moody-Stuart



Giants Staircase



Where: Border Ranges Base Camp
When: 10th July
Leader: Rob Santry

On Friday evening, Betty, Hilary, Graham and I were the first to arrive at the Forest Top Campground in the Border Ranges National Park. After assessing which pitches were the driest (least puddly) we quickly erected our tents before it got really dark. Don and Valerie joined us shortly after: soon Graham and Don had made two great campfires in the open, but cosy, camp kitchen. The sound of Rob's car engine chugging up the hill heralded the arrival of Rob and Laurel to complete our group.

After a restful sleep, we all had a quick breakfast before driving in two cars down to the start of our walk at Sheep Station Campsite. It was raining a little, and cold, and the ground was fairly slippery. Hilary lent me some poles and Betty lent Graham a very attractive mulberry possum beanie! As new members to the club Graham and I have limited gear! We started first with a short loop walk to see the Rosewood tree before heading up slowly upwards to the Forest Top Campground. The rain forest was lush and it was absolutely beautiful as we crossed lovely creeks and admired unusual tree formations.

During the walk we saw, and Rob digitally recorded, many amazing Fungi each displaying differing shapes, colours and sizes. After a welcome break for lunch, perched on a log, we continued the climb back towards the Campground. Rob was a fantastic leader and pointed out various trees and wildlife. Eventually we came to a clearing and we felt sure the campsite was just around the corner, as we tramped for another 3 kms ! By this time we were all quite tired (well Graham and I were!)



Once back at the camp Don drove Rob to get his car and then Rob drove Graham to pick up his car. The girls started the peeling and cutting of the veggies for the evening Roast. Rob cooked an amazing Roast Beef, potatoes and vegetables in a camp oven for us all, and also managed to cook an upside down pineapple cake for pudding! I've heard this is what we can expect at all the walks! After a few drinks we all enjoyed a sing song. The rendition of "a proper cup of coffee in a proper copper coffee pot" caused a lot of laughter.

On Sunday morning we all packed up the campsite after a lovely breakfast cooked by Rob and headed off for a short walk to the Antarctic Beech Forest and the Tweed Pinnacle, where Rob, in his stunning khaki gear was mistaken for a Ranger. Here we enjoyed a fantastic view of the Border Ranges, Mt Warning and more until the mist came down and the view disappeared under white cloud. On the way home along the Lions Road we stopped in at the Border Loop Lookout and saw and heard our first Bellbirds.

For Graham and I this was the second club walk we have done. Rob and everyone made us really welcome, and we had lots of fun and laughter the whole weekend. We saw some spectacular scenery and felt really well supported on the walk. For new members it's really important not to feel out of your depth and the encouragement, consideration and help shown to us was really appreciated.

Nikki Arnold



The Grand Feast



Where: STEAMERS (Main Range) Through Walk
When: 9th 10th 11th July 2010
Leaders: Errol Perry and Phil Fryer

As this walk was for members who had not previously experienced a through walk with our club, it was decided to meet at the BP Aratula for dinner on Friday night before driving to the base of the Steamers to camp for the night thus enabling us to get a good start in the morning.

Saturday morning we set off with our big packs ready for adventure, the unexpected and fun and were definitely not disappointed. There were overgrown tracks, rock scrambling and to the new adventurers, what appeared to be LOTS of bush bashing with at times plant life as tall as us and vines that just loved to have us tangled up. Errol decided it would be a great opportunity to put some map reading/compass skills practice into the mix for the uninitiated and lucky Kerrie was often given the chance to confirm where we were and where next to go. Great job Kerrie. Heather. Carmel and Anne looked on hoping to pick up some pointers.

At the end of the first day having scrambled up to the top of Mt Steamers, our tired legs were pleased at having arrived at where we were pitching camp for the night. We had some light drizzle but didn't let that spoil our fun when after dinner, Errol invited ALL of us into his dining room for a game of Eye Spy. As it was dark, you can only imagine the inventiveness that was required to outwit our walking buddies.

Next morning after a nutritious breakfast, we were ready for another day. Saw lovely Red tailed Cockatoos, baby bird nests and one very ugly toad that our hero Phil, disposed of down the mountain.

Today we were given the opportunity to climb up the rock face for the most fabulous view one could wish to see. One of our team decided to stay and take these special photos, and as the climb is not for the faint hearted we will keep the photos as a reminder that we actually did it. Thank you Errol and Phil for helping an encouraging this part of our adventure.

As the day progressed we were all looking forward to the days end and a Burger with the lot and coffee at Aratula. This definitely kept us going as Errol, Phil and Wayne sorted our way out of what appeared to be the jungle using our map, compass and 2 gps's. At one point Errol used his walking stick as a machete. Now that was interesting.

As I am writing this, obviously we're now all home safe and sound after a wonderful weekend. Thank you to all team and especially Errol and Phil for organising the trip.

Errol. Phil, Wayne, Kerrie, Carmel, Heather and Anne.



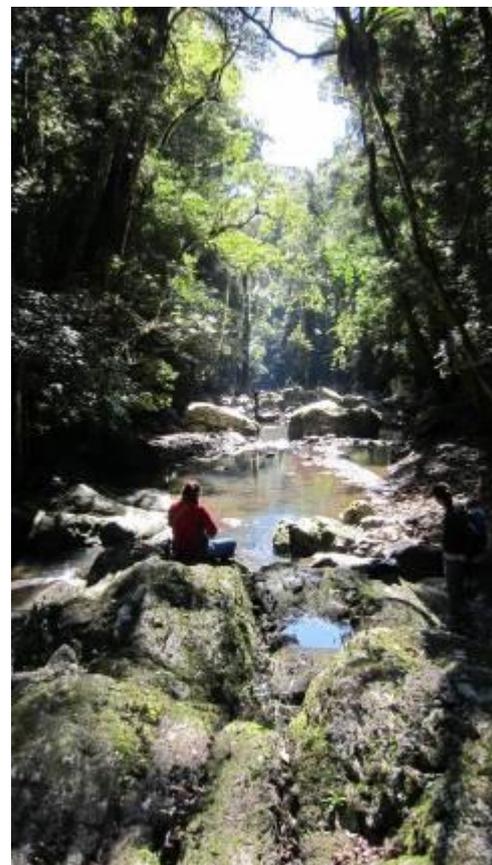
Where: Warrie Circuit
When: 18th July
Leader: Steve Tolcher

The start of another relaxing Sunday walk! Five car loads of us met at Springbrook at 8am. Some debate took place on whether we should go clockwise or anticlockwise around the 17 km circuit. The clockwise route involved a steeper descent and a gradual climb back after lunch at the “Meeting of the Waters”. The anticlockwise route would get us to the “Meeting of the Waters”, the favoured lunch spot on the track, around midday. The clockwise route was agreed and we departed the Canyon Lookout. We followed the base of the escarpment for a couple of kilometres and then zig-zagged down past Twin Falls, towards the “Meeting of the Waters” lunch destination. The Poondahra and Poonyahra Falls were passed. Not much water flowing over them, but enough to entice us to enjoy short stops beside them. We met other walkers on the track, including some karate practitioners and a group from Brisbane Bushwalking Club.

We arrived at the “Meeting of the Waters” around 11am, a little early for lunch, but we were all alerted to a fellow lying down on the rocks, lower leg strapped and another walker preparing an injection of something or other. Others were attending to the injured walker too. Apparently he had slipped and obviously broken his ankle in one or more places a short time before. The injured man seemed in reasonable spirits and members of our party enquired what help they could provide. Problem! No mobile phone coverage where we were. Everyone tried their mobiles but none of us could contact the outside world. Russell disappeared up the track and returned some minutes later, reporting that he was able to get mobile phone connection a few hundred yards up. Meantime, it was decided to move the injured fellow from the rocks where he fell to a smoother more comfortable area away from the creek. All realised that it would not be possible to get him out along the track and that helicopter evacuation was necessary.

Making sure that our “broken leg” patient was comfortable in the hands of his party members; their Jenny came with us up the track to where phone contact was possible. Members of our party left thermal blankets and an orange marker sheet with the injured walker and his party. A short distance up the track Jenny was able to reach the police and talk to Emergency Services on Russell’s phone. They confirmed that they would send a chopper to get the patient out. Jenny’s party had a GPS and she was able to advise their location precisely. Russell left his mobile phone with Jenny and we continued our walk out, assessing that the situation was as safe as we could make it, and under control.

What seemed to be a very short time later, the chopper was overhead. For what seemed like a long time we continuously heard the chopper overhead, getting a glimpse of it from time to time through the bush, as we walked out.. We all pondered; would they be able to lift the fellow out?



Several of us were in a reflective mood on our gradual climb back to the Canyon Lookout. What if you were walking on your own, or with just one other person? What could you do in the event of an accident like this? What if it was not on a weekend when other walkers were likely to happen on you, or on a remote track or a bush bash? EPIRBS, GPS’s and all the other mod cons were all reflected upon. Yes, we must carry these devices, we told ourselves. I guess the big advantage of walking with a group or a club, is that if an accident does happen, (and chances are it will at some time or other), the combined resources of the group will best enable a positive outcome.

We arrived back at the Canyon Lookout and three French Canadian cyclists were there. They confirmed that they had seen the chopper lift the walker out too, so we were all pleasantly relieved.

Although very reflective for most of us, the walk was great. The country is very green, water coming over Rainbow Falls, and a safe and enjoyable trip home for all of us.

Russell has got his phone back and we believe that the injured walker is recovering satisfactorily.

Walking back up the Warrie track, we did reflect on the chopper crew. It was a lovely fine day and no wind, but others who we had never met were putting their own lives at risk going out there to retrieve an injured walker. It may have been one of us, who had an accident while enjoying a great relaxation activity. It just takes an incident like this to remind us what a risky and wonderful job our emergency services people do.

The walk was an “eye opening” experience in so many ways. I learned a lot! Thanks Steve and everyone else on the walk.

Cheers

Mike V

P.S The injured walker and his party did give us permission to take the attached photographs.



Where: Canoe Trip to Fraser Island

When: 17– 25 July

Leader: Kevin Blain

Four people started from Urangan and paddled 16 klm across Hervey Bay to Fraser Island to set up the first night camp. Strong runout tide was in our favour but a moderate south-easterly wind across the route created lumpy conditions and difficult paddling.

Sunday involved a 12 klm paddle further north along Fraser Island to Woralie Creek for the next camp site. Mild south-easterly wind assisted this time but hard paddle was encounter against the strong run out tide. The camp site was established 60 metres from the ocean and 5 metres from a good freshwater creek.

A moderate north-easterly wind and a run in tide with rain showers made paddling difficult on Monday. Initially a half metre chop was encountered but this did ease off. After paddling 9 klm the next campsite was set up at Awinya Creek beside freshwater and only just back from the ocean.

The weather forecast that night indicated 15 – 20 knot south-east winds on Wednesday and Thursday. We intended to complete the trip by Friday and the forecast was indicating probable difficulty in getting back to the mainland. Reluctantly the decision was made to abort the trip and start back to the mainland.

Tuesday produced a strong south-west wind and the chop and tide made paddling strenuous. After a long day and 20 klm we set up camp near the mouth of Coongal Creek. After a hearty meal everyone went to bed early in anticipation of the long paddle across the bay, next morning, to Urangan. The weather forecast was no better and worse for Friday with 20 – 25 knot winds predicted.



We all agreed that the correct decision was made to abort the trip early.

Wednesday morning we faced strong south- west wind and tide as we paddled from Fraser Island to Urangan. The chop was rough and unpredictable. But we all arrived at Urangan without mishap after 18klm of paddling, packed up and returned home.

All up we paddled 75klm in 5 days. Unfortunately the weather controlled the trip. It was an excellent location and next time we will ensure that more time is available to sit out the weather. There are excellent camp sites with plenty of fresh water. We did have nightly visits from Dingoes but no trouble was encountered.

The trip was enjoyed by all. Kevin Blain

Where: Mt Warning Base Camp and climb
When: 24th & 25th July
Leader: Carmel Cash

Happy hour was enjoyed by 6 members on the Friday evening. Saturday, 10 Members enjoyed a lovely round trip through the villages of Uki, (farmer's market, wonderful fresh produce), Stokers Siding, with a quick visit to the Pottery Gallery. Wending our way to Pottsville to enjoy a well earned Coffee and Yep!! cake as well as a good chat. Heading North, stops were made at Hasting's Point and Norrie's Headland. Conditions were unfavourable to see many Whales. A couple of sightings was the best that was managed.

A picturesque drive along Clothier's Creek Road then on to Tumbulgum Pub for lunch. Yummie!!! last stop at The Tweed River Art and Craft Gallery. Very modern building and impressive Art and Craft work, too! Back to base to meet 7 more Members and Guests at happy hour, which ran into the B-B-Q meal together. Lots of laughter. would you believe more Chatting as we got to know more about each other, as well as drink or three.

Sunday, the Big day. Departing from the base of Mt. Warning at 9.10am. 18 Members and guests started climbing up, up, and up more stairs. The overcast day was very pleasant for the climb. The anticipated return walk was to take approximately 5 hours. complete. On average this was spot on. All had their own missions for the walk, Speed, Photo Shots (for the competition) enjoyment of the beautiful Scenery, while others stepped out of their comfort zones to conquering their Fears, to phone a Friend or Relative from the top of Mt. Warning.

The day was a Great Success, as all returned home happy with their own personal achievements and the knowledge that they have conquered their fears, new goals while having Fun! A Great Weekend, Special Thank You, to all who attended making the weekend a happy time with many happy Memories.

Carmel.

