

Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

June 2010

Next Club Meeting

14th July 7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre, Runnymede Street Capalaba

We will have a slide show by Anne Stone and Bill Carten on the Camino Pilgrim Walk

NEWS ITEM: NEXT MEETING WE WILL BE TRIALLING A **“FOR SALE TABLE”**

Please bring clean “bushwalking only” items, marked with your name and price.

President's Report

We are up to July already. Hasn't the last 6 months just flown.

There have been some great walks, base camps and through walks happening. It is always nice to read about them in the newsletter. The activities will continue as the calendar fills up.

Thankyou to Tracy, our Leader Liason officer, for organising a leaders workshop where there were a couple of new leaders plus other more experienced leaders.

Tracy followed this up with a questionnaire and we were very happy with the amount of responses received. The information requested from this questionnaire will be answered over time at Club meetings, in the newsletter, on the website and through workshops.

Redland Bushwalkers has a very healthy membership and it is always lovely to see new faces coming along to the meetings. As a member yourself please remember how you felt on your first night and make an effort to welcome a new face.

With the rain around be careful while out walking, climbing or whatever you choose to do.

Lets support the Toowoomba Bushwalking Club by attending the Pilgrimage in August. This is a great opportunity to camp with your own club while also mixing with other clubs.

I see the cameras out at walks and camps so make sure you get your “Presentation kits” for your photos and enter the photographic competition now.

There have been a lot of members travelling overseas and doing some incredible walks. I hope that they have had a truly wonderful experience and I look forward to hearing all about their journeys.

Happy walking
Denise

Upcoming Activities

Where: Thornlands Social Walk- Saturday July 10th
When: Saturday 10th July Start - 8.00am
Leader: Judith Chapman Ph 3821 6842

Place - Corner of Osprey Drive and Panorama Drive-UBD reference- Map 205 K8 Please do not park in the shopping centre carpark

Walk – Through Crystal Waters to Eddie Santagiuliana way and back up via South St to coffee in the shopping centre café Distance- About 7-8 km Time - About 2hrs

Where: BORDER RANGES BASE CAMP
When - Saturday 10 and Sunday 11 July
Contact leader to register - Rob Santry mob 0416 150737 or email - laurelandrob.santry@gmail.com
Camp ground Forest Top Campground in the Border Ranges National Park
Meeting time 7.30am meet at park Rathdowney on Saturday

Description - Varying types of rainforest including Bangalow Palm Forest and Arctic Beech forest, beautiful streams, 100 years of history of loggers. Walk on Saturday - approx 13km - moderate fitness

What to bring - tent, sleeping gear, personal gear, day walking gear, food (include happy hour food and drink) (once you have registered Rob will contact you about Saturday night meal) and anything else you think is necessary!

Contact officer - to be advised

Where: Steamers Main Range
When: Sat/Sunday Through Walk 10/11 July
Leaders: Errol Perry and Phil Fryer

Unfortunately this walk has limited numbers and it is now full. Another beginner's through walk will be attempted at a later date, please talk to the committee to express your interest and we can schedule another activity.

Where: Warrie Circuit Springbrook
When: Sunday 18th July
Leader: Steve Tolcher Ph 3207 6732

This is a long and medium fitness 17km track walk commencing at Canyon Lookout, there are several creek crossings and waterfalls and great views of the rainforest valley.

Where: Page's Pinnacle
When: Sunday 18th July
Leader: Matts Anderson Ph: 3822 1303

We meet at the turnoff from the Nerang - Springbrook road, the walk follows forestry roads down into the valley, and then up a steep slope to the top of the ridge, where we leave the road. We then follow a ridgeline that narrows to two razorbacks out to the summit.

The walk is suitable for anyone with reasonable fitness, and a head for heights, as we will walk on the edge of sheer dropoffs. There is a little scrambling involved, just a couple of meters, the climb is not exposed.

This is a very short walk, duration 3-3.5 hrs.

Where: Lincoln Wreck from Teviot Falls
When: Sunday 18th July
Leader: Tracy Ryan and Russell MacKenzie Ph 3286 4759

This walk involves a steep uphill climb for about 2 hours to the saddle between Mt Roberts and Mt Superbus, then more of a climb up to the top of Mt Superbus. We will then look for the Lincoln bomber wreck, which we may or may not find. Then its downhill all the way back to the cars, via another steep ridge. This isn't a long or exposed walk but sections of it are quite steep and slippery.

If you are interested, please contact me on prestonhome@iinet.net.au or 3286 4759 after 22 July. I am away till then, so there may or may not be a sign-up sheet at the July meeting.

If it rains much the week before, the walk will be cancelled.

Where: Kayak Trip
When: 17 – 23 July
Leader: Kevin Blain 38212187

This trip will commence from Urangan on Saturday morning and the following 6 nights will be spent camping along the western side of Fraser Island.

It is intended to return back home on Friday 23rd.

The trip will involve paddling sea kayaks across some open water. Experienced paddlers only will be accepted. Participants will require a sea kayak and supplies sufficient for 6 days of camping. Some water will be required. Transport will be arranged for participants.

Where: Mt Warning Base Camp
When: Friday 23 – 24 – 25 July
Leader: Carmel Cash Ph 3348 5956

Accommodation: Mt. Warning Holiday Park. P: 0266702790. W: www.mtwarninghoildaypark.com. Cabins, and tent sights.

Activities include: Happy hour from 5.00pm Friday and Saturday BYO food and drinks Sat, Casual day, 9.00am departure, various activities. B-B-Q dinner back at base. More information at meeting Wednesday. Sunday, Depart base ready to start climb at 9.00am. Will need to bring, boots, sticks, morning tea, lunch, Min.2 ltrs water, Warm jackets, can get very cool. Walk approx. 4.4 klms, Takes about 5 hours. Toilets only at start of walk. Return home, coffee somewhere!!!

Where: Point Pure
When: 31st July/1st August
Leader: Matts Anderson Ph 3822 1303

The walk will be a survey walk, as work commitments is stopping me from doing a proper survey. Planned route as follows: Start at Casuarina camping area, which we reach via Gatton.

Walk along 4WD tracks into the Blackfellow Creek valley to Abbot's Yard, where we leave the valley floor, and start a gradual climb up to the plateau near Point Pure. After visiting Point Pure, we will walk through the rainforest to near Blackfellow falls, and depending on progress, either make camp up there, or continue down the ridge to Blackfellow Creek and camp there. The next day we follow the creek back out.

The walk entails a 500m climb in elevation, and pushing through rainforest of unknown density, so only serious masochists should consider it. However, the map profiles looks really enticing.....

Where: Mt Mee D'Agular Range
When: 1st August
Leader: Kerry Coulter Ph 3822 7259

Details at the meeting

Where: Girraween Base Camp
When: 7 – 9th August
Leader: Ted Wassenberg Ph 3286 2817

More information at the meeting.

Where: Seven Hills Bushland Social Walk
When: Saturday 7th August
Leader: Marnie Thomson Ph 3829 3270

Activity Reports

Where: Main Range
When: 12 – 14 June
Leader: Tracy Ryan and Judy Moody-Stewart

We had to wait for Mats flying in from working up north before we could set off for Spicer's Gap. Rebecca collected Marika and Mats and got to Ted's place by just after 6 pm. Ted loaded everyone into his car and then had to collect Tracy and Judy, before finally heading off. Six people, plus packs and bags made for a full load. Dinner was the usual at the BP in Aratula. On arrival at Spicer's Gap, the tents were erected quickly, as the wind was fearsome, noisy and gusting cold. Early to bed, but not many slept as the wind howled and buffeted the tents.



Lunch at Lizard Pt



Looking from Spicers to Superbus



Next morning 7 am, after a quick breakfast, the car was loaded up again and we headed up to the car park at Governor's Chair to start the climb up Spicers Peak. This steep slope was interrupted by several cliff breaks that were climbed with the aid of a rope. Just below the final cliff, we had a great view of the extent of our walk south. A short break at the summit cairn and Tracy and Judy led off down the rainforest slope on the other side. After a while both Mats and Ted said we should head east and we came out just below the last of the cliffs in the saddle between Spicer's and Double Top. From Double Top we could see down into Hell Hole Gorge in the west. Continuing on there were several knolls to cross on the way to Mt Huntley. Huntley seemed far away. By 4 pm we reached Huntley saddle and we were faced with a steep climb to our water supply and camp. Everyone was tired by now and Ted, then Tracy, led the way up through a path that faded away and we pushed through the bush to the base of the cliff. Skirting around to the west we found the break in the cliff leading to the summit. Ted climbed up to set up a rope, but he was a bit too slow for one. Eventually, we all climbed through the break and arrived at campsite just on dusk - a long gruelling day.

Sunday morning - a later start than yesterday, but everyone was refreshed. Tracy and Judy led the way down off Huntley and up onto Mt Asplenium, where we had morning tea. We passed two groups of walkers heading north. Lunch was on Panorama Pt and we then had to scramble down several sets of cliffs to get to lower Panorama Pt. On the descent, the raspberry vines were thick and vicious. The descent became steeper as we dropped a long way to the saddle above Davies' Ridge. One large knoll more and we arrived at Steamer saddle for the night. A creek lower down the west side provided drinking water and an opportunity to wash. Dinner was had early as the wind became stronger and colder and Rebecca had on all her wet weather gear and thermals. We all soon followed her example but were in our tents by 6 pm to escape the cold.



Tracy had us all ready to go early Monday morning and led us straight up to the cairn on Mt Steamer. The descent on the south side was through forest covered in moss and old man beard. Again, we used a rope to climb down the small cliff leading into the saddle below Mt Lizard and across to Lizard Point. Here we had morning tea. Judy and Tracy led us across to Mt Robert's and then to the campsite on Superbus where we had lunch. We were all glad to follow Judy on the long descend to Teviot Gap and arrive there to Ted's car.

Dear Errol, Phil and Heather had driven up from Redlands to Spicers Gap and collected Ted's car and driven it to Teviot Gap to make this three day walk possible.

Thanks Errol, Heather and Phil. We caught up with them at Boonah café for a drink.

Written by Ted for Judy and Tracy



Where: Mt Mitchell Cunningham's Gap

When: Sunday 13th June

Leader: Dudley Reid

Mt Mitchell is one of our favourite short walks. With a 4.5km uphill track walk passing through rainforest and dry lightly wooded areas. We have a short stair climb at the top and it brings you out onto a narrow ridge at the top. You really do feel you are on top of the world with the valleys spreading out on both sides with a 180 deg. view. I love driving up the range and saying, "I have sat on top of that mountain" it certainly looks an impressive achievement.



Anne teaching Jenny how to eat the scones and coffee at Aratula



Where: Winter Base Camp Spring Gully Stays.

When: 19 – 20th June

Leaders: Rob and Laurel Santry

A lovely relaxing weekend was had by all 14 people at Rob and Laurels winter camp. We enjoyed perfect weather with brilliant sunshine and cool nights. On Saturday morning we arrived and set up camp beside Canungra Creek. Some stayed in the bunkhouse tents, some in their own tents whilst Bev and Lyn luxuriated in Bev's glamorous motorhome.



We drove up to Binna Burra to Dave's Creek circuit. We walked for 4 hours amongst lovely rainforest where there were some spectacular views especially when we lunched on the rocks, basking in the warm sunshine.

Back at the camp after lovely hot showers, we all rallied around to prepare a delicious shared 4 course meal. Rob was head chef and had the fire and camp oven cooking all organized in superb fashion.

A few drinks, plenty of chit chat and laughter and a warm fire together with a good meal had us all feeling very mellow. Laurel brought songbooks along. We enjoyed an enthusiastic singalong, complete with harmonizing from our talented trio Marika, Denise and Laurel, added sparkle to the evening. Snug in our sleeping bags that night, we were lulled to sleep by the creek water running over the rocks.



On Sunday we breakfasted in the sun and then explored beyond the beautiful campground area. We wandered across the creek and up the hill. It really is a magic setting.

The coffee shop in Canungra was calling so we found a table amongst the Harley riders and cyclists for a caffeine fix. Afterwards we drove the scenic tour up around Tambourine Mountain. We stopped to watch 6-8 hang gliders run down the grassy bank and leap fearlessly off the cliff. One lost his grip for a moment, he plunged and his feet clipped the foliage of a tree before he regained control and soared up on the thermals with the other gliders.

We finished up with a late lunch at Tambourine Pub in a lovely rainforest setting. Another Great Redlands Bushwalkers outing.

Thanks to Rob and Laurel for organizing such a well balanced weekend in the mountains



Where: Mezzanine Ridge – Garv's Gorge - Mt Barney

When: 19th June

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

This was an FMR activity for any bushwalking club members who wanted to participate. We met at Yellow Pinch car park at 0730. Frank and Barbara (QBW), who were to lead the activity, were unable to participate and I was asked to lead the event. There were eight of us Peter, Lance and Carmen (YHA), Bernie, Neville and Shane (Gold Coast), Judy and Ted (RBI) and Ken (QBW) who had done this activity before.

We set off over Yellow Pinch and followed the old logging road towards South Ridge. Where the uphill track levelled off, we left the road and set off up to the base of Mezzanine Ridge. This ridge is unique on Mt Barney as it is a very narrow razorback with steep sides and lots of exposure. We climbed and scrambled up this ridge for about two hours, until we reached the upper end, where, with the aid of a rope, we had to climb down into a saddle.

This saddle was a good spot for morning tea, but as it was in the shadow of SE Ridge, it was too cold to linger for long. We scrambled down about 10m from this saddle and found a solid tree from which to set up our abseil into Garv's Gorge. Getting down was going to require at least two abseil pitches and a possible third.

The bush was dense in the lower slopes of the gorge and after finding a suitable tree and abseiling the second pitch, we descended diagonally to the right along a steep ridge into the bottom of the gorge. Here we had lunch. The scene was magical with palm trees and vines everywhere. The descent along the bottom of the gorge had its own beauty, with rock pools and short steep waterfalls and many boulders to scramble over. The thick vines became our friends to help us down some of the waterfalls or small cliff. Eventually we crossed the South Ridge track and returned along the road, over Yellow pinch back to the cars. Everyone said they enjoyed the challenge of the activity and looked forward to future events. Thanks to Barbara and Frank for suggesting and organising the activity and Ken for helping to confirm the location of the abseils.



Where: Trip report Mt Maroon Traverse.
Leader: Ted Wassenberg

The club has never before done a crossing of Mt Maroon. So we thought it time to do so. The crossing required a car shuffle. Tracy, Judy and I camped at Flanagan's in order to have an early start to drop my car at the north side of Mt Maroon and Tracy drove us to Drynan's hut on the south side. Errol and Mats joined us there for an 8:00 h start. We crossed Barney Ck and put on our boots on the other side. The walk in to Paddy's Plain campsite is along a fire trail and took us past the large falls that were dry. From the campsite, we crossed the main creek at the junction of the creek flowing down from Mt Maroon and headed up this branch. This soon opened up to slab walking. Eventually, the creek became steeper and the gorge narrower. A trail on the west side bypassed the steepest slabs and soon we were deep in the upper gorge.

We had morning tea in the gorge and then continued onto the summit where we had a light lunch as it took us only 3 h to reach the summit after leaving the cars.

The descent down the north side was uneventful and soon had us at my car for the drive back to the cars on the south side. On the way home we stopped at Rathlogan Café for delicious coffee and cake or other refreshments. This trip was enjoyed by all and will have to be repeated soon.



WHERE: THE DESERT TRIP 2010
WHEN: 16 AUGUST TO 6 SEPTEMBER
LEADER: ROB SANTRY

If you would like details of this trip please contact Rob on 0438 080 157

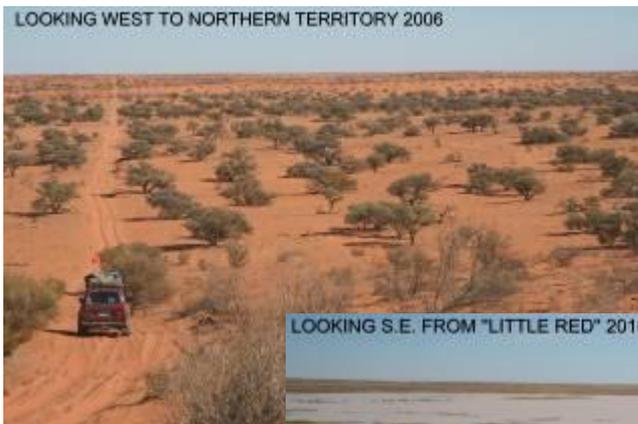
UPDATE:

Birdsville – Simpson Desert Kevin Blain

I have just returned from a trip to Birdsville and partly into the Simpson Desert west of Birdsville. This area has had a considerable amount of rainfall during the last nine months. The purpose of this trip was to observe the change in the country side compared to my last trip four years ago. That trip took place during extremely dry conditions. The change in the country has been tremendous. Grass and vegetation has sprouted everywhere. In fact a potential fire problem is now developing with the grass standing waist high in a lot of the area. Beside the changes in vegetation there is a lot of water now ponded in gullies between the sand dunes. A lot of the desert tracks were still closed due to the floodwaters.

The attached photos show a comparison of the country side now as against four years ago. The “Big Red” Sand dune some 30 klm west of Birdsville is surrounded by flood water and can only be accessed by a considerable detour. Because of the vegetation it should now be called “Big Green”.

The road to Birdsville is in good condition at present. I can recommend that anyone wanting to see the desert in bloom, now is the time to go.



REPORT FROM THE CLUB QUESTIONNAIRE:

First of all, thank you to the 20 members who responded to the questionnaire. That's a 20% response rate, which isn't bad. Here's a quick summary of the responses:

- About half the respondents had led walks. Of the non-leaders, most were interested in hearing more about it.
- Most respondents preferred track walks, to off-track walks. In fact the respondents tended to be either track walkers or off-track walkers, with very little overlap. Both groups said they liked through walks. Several respondents also listed canoeing, bike riding etc as activities they liked to do. Most leaders led walks that matched the walks they personally preferred to do.
- Of the respondents who haven't led walks, the most common reasons were:
 - they liked to follow rather than lead (5 responses)
 - didn't know what a leader is supposed to do (4)
 - didn't know how to follow a map and worried about getting lost (3)
- Leaders and would-be leaders wanted more information and training about:
 - What to do if someone on a walk has an accident (13 responses)
 - How to use the club radios (13)
 - What to do if we get lost (11)
 - What equipment the leader should take (11)
 - Basic navigation skills, eg how to work out which direction is home, how to use a compass (11)
 - Advanced navigation skills (11)
 - Basic map reading eg tourist maps (5)
 - How to minimize our impact on the environment (5)
- Other responses and suggestions:
 - Having the time to be a leader.
 - Having the time to survey a walk before the walk date.
 - New members not sure of what the club's all about, their own walking ability, what's required of members and leaders.
 - How to use a GPS, how to read maps, preplotting routes etc.
 - Club should provide a summary of all walk locations and detail to assist new leaders undertaking walks.
 - A practical exercise for an emergency would assist members to be more comfortable with accident situations.
 - The role of the contact person
 - What's covered by the Club's insurance.
 - Leaders should nominate co-leaders to encourage others' participation.
 - What the forms to use and what happens to them once they've been filled in.

Other comments:

- One respondent suggested putting hyperlinks on the calendar to more information about the walks, time and place of meeting, expected time taken to complete walk etc.
- Several respondents were concerned about general membership issues, eg visitors who attend one or two meetings and don't return or join, the importance of increasing the membership, mentoring new and potential members through the club rules and procedures,
- Some respondents were concerned about some walks being full before the signup sheets go out, with the result that other members feel excluded.
- Two respondents felt we needed more walks that allow members to progress to harder walks. Also more easier off track walks for beginner and medium fitness people.
- Larger meeting room needed.
- More experienced walkers to give more assistance to less experienced, especially for through walks.
- Descriptions and ratings for walks need to be published and then not changed. Rating should not be based on individual leaders' fitness.

And finally:

- I have done about six walks and have thoroughly enjoyed the walks as well as the company.
- I feel the club is run very well with a good variety of walks for all levels.
- I think the club is good and really well run. It provides exactly what I need at this stage of my life and I appreciate the good work of all the leaders and the committee.

So what happens now? After much discussion at the June committee meeting, we will address most of these questions and suggestions at club meetings and in the newsletter. We're also toying with the idea of holding a regular annual training weekend for leaders and would-be leaders where we would cover the more detailed topics such as navigation, what to do in an emergency, how to use the club radios, etc. And we will also organize ad hoc training activities, so watch this space!

THROUGH WALK - BACK PACK EQUIPMENT

Last meeting there was a demonstration as to the required contents of a through - walk pack, a list has been compiled for your use:

Maps	Food/snacks - dried fruit, nuts etc
Sleeping Bag	Extra food & water
Sleeping Mat	Clothes/socks/small towel/toiletries etc
Large bag (vet bag) for waterproofing	Whistle
Raincoat - Gore-tex etc	Torch
Tent or fly	Silver tape
Emergency blanket	Rope
First Aid kit	Pack cover
Compass	Batteries
Stove	Mobile Phone
Stove protector (wind breaker)	Sandals/crocs/light weight footwear
Utensils (pots - cutlery)	Optional extra's
Poles	Epirb if going off track
Water	

BUSHWALKING 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.

ANNUAL SHEPHERDS WALK

Sponsored by

BEAUDESERT HISTORICAL SOCIETY INC. Tele/Fax: (07) 5541 3740. Email:hsb@hotmail.net.au

DATE OF WALK: SATURDAY 17TH JULY 2010

Intending walkers **MUST REGISTER THEIR NAMES BY 14th JULY with the SOCIETY Business Hours: 9.00am to 4.00pm Daily.** Except Good Friday and Christmas Day.

Walkers must assemble at the Historical Society Complex, located at the corner of Brisbane St and McKee St Beaudesert by 8.00am on the morning of the Walk. To check in, pay and sign the Disclaimer Form. It is preferable that Leaders of Bush Walking Clubs have their members complete the Disclaimer Form (attached) or their own Club's Disclaimer Form prior to checking in and paying.

Children under Fourteen Years and under must be accompanied by an adult and his/her name included on the Disclaimer Form, signed for by person responsible.

Buses will leave the Society Complex at 8.30am and travel to Christmas Creek to view the Monument erected in memory of the Chinese shepherds killed in the skirmish. A short address will be given here on the Historical significance of the day. The walk will start in Christmass Creek and walkers will walk over ther JINBROKEN RANGE and down to the WASHPOOL on the ALBERT RIVER in the KERRY VALLEY **WALKERS MUST CHECK THEIR NAME" WITH THE SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVE STATIONED AT THE RIVER CROSSING.**

On the grounds adjacent to the crossing, Society members and members of the Restored Auto Club will have everything ready for walkers and non-walkers to enjoy a real Aussie BBQ sausage sizzle, with toast, tea, coffee, cordial and freshly cooked damper and syrup. Marquees and huge shady gum trees will provide lots of shade.

- **Buses will return to Historical Complex at approximately 2.30pm.**

Information to be aware of:

- There is some steep walking and those with respiratory/heart conditions must be aware of this. Regular spells for slower walkers will be taken when required. Much of the Walk is out of range of mobile phones and is inaccessible to four-wheel drive vehicles.
- Walkers are advised to carry drinking water and a snack for morning tea stop at the Crest.
- Toilets are available at the Historical Complex and at the Picnic Grounds. Toilets are not available at the monument site.
- Off road parking is available in the grounds of the Historical Complex and Picnic Ground.

Charges: Bookings can be made by Telephone or Internet during Business Hours. (07) 5541 3740

Adult Walker: Bus Fare; Sausage Sizzle.	\$15.00
Adult Walkers Traveling in Private; Sausage Sizzle.	\$15.00
Non-Walkers traveling in Private Car to Picnic Area; Sausage Sizzle.	\$5.00
Non-Walker traveling in Bus; Sausage Sizzle.	\$15.00
Children 14 and under	No Charge

Club Members enjoying an evening of food and wine on the Beginners Non Lower Portals through walk. (walk cancelled due to rain)

