



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163

June 2011

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 13 July 2011

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

Walks database now available

Our peak body BWQ has been beavering away to prepare a database of walks around south east Queensland. As we all know, clubs like ours have members with amazing knowledge of walks that aren't recorded elsewhere. BWQ has set about including some of these walks in its database. It recently released the first part of the database to other bushwalking clubs so they can include some of these walks in their own programs.

If walk leaders would like to know more about the database, please contact Sue or Tracy: details at the end of this newsletter.

Walkers' tips

We've had a couple of incidents recently where people have signed up for walks and then have been nowhere to be seen when the walk is due to start. We're all busy and we've all had instances where the walk we signed up for clashes with a family member's birthday, and world war 3 will break out if we don't turn up. However, please let the leader know as soon as you realize you can't come. There are two important reasons.

The first is safety: leaders will spend a bit of time chasing no-shows just in case they've had an accident on the way or something. It's a bit annoying if you're in the sticks somewhere standing on the roof of your car holding your mouth just right so you don't lose your dodgy mobile connection, only to be told "oh, sorry I didn't tell you, I'm not coming." The other reason is that some walks have limited numbers, and your place could be offered to somebody on the waiting list.

Just a thought.



Upcoming Activities

Click here for our complete calendar: www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au. Keep an eye out for the signup sheets at the club meeting, or contact the leaders if you have any questions or can't make it to the meeting.

Here's a summary of upcoming activities for July.

Wed 6 July: navigation training, Paddy's Plain. Contact Ken Walters, 3344 1927.

Sun 10 July: day walk, Montserrat lookout, Mt Barney area. Contact Tracy Ryan 3286 4759/prestonhome@iinet.net.au, Judy Moody-Stuart 3206 8787/ judym-s@bigpond.com

Sat Sun 16-17 July: Mt Warning through walk. Contact FMR's Phil Box.

Sat 16 July: day walk, Boondall wetlands. Contact Carmel Cash, 3348 5956.

Sun 17 July: Dave's Creek circuit. Contact Sue and Dudley, 0407 133 240.

Sat Sun 23-24 July: Glen Rock base camp and day walks. Contact Mats Andersson, 0438 984 090/matsmarika@gmail.com

Sun 24 July: day walk, Mt Coot-tha. Contact Kerrie Coulter, 3822 7259.

Sat Sun 30-31 July: Kids' camp, Spring Gully Stays. Contact Denise Kolcze, 3286 5471.

Sat Sun 30-31 July: through walk, Mt Castle. Contact Ted Wassenberg, 3286 2817/twassenberg@optusnet.com.au



Coming up: Shepherd's Walk

The annual shepherd's walk is on 16 July and registrations close on 13 July. This walk is organized by the Historical Society of Beaudesert Inc. "In memory of the three Chinese shepherds and Aborigines who lost their lives in the early settlement of the district c1850". For more information:

<http://beaudesertmuseum.org.au/main/special-events/shepherds-walk.html>

Pilgrimage early bird registrations close soon

The Pilgrimage 2011 at Kenilworth Showgrounds from 26-28 August 2011 is fast approaching. The early bird discount for booking expires at the end of July.

There are a variety of walks available with various sections of the Conondale Great Walk and Sunshine Coast Hinterland Great Walk, plus other walks in the now declared Mapleton National Park, and in the Kenilworth area.

More details at <http://www.sunshinecoastbushwalkingclub.com/pilgrimage/>.

Also don't forget the Festival of the Walks being held at Maleny and Blackall Ranges from 19-28 August 2011. More details <http://www.festivalofthewalks.com.au/>.



Activity reports

Where: Wishing Tree and Lyre Bird Tracks, O'Reillys

When: 19 June

Leader: Laurel Santry

On a chilly Sunday morning we all met at the O'Reillys car park ready for a day of exploration. One forward thinking and considerate friend even had hot coffee ready to serve from the boot of her car for the ones lucky enough to be sharing the ride with her - thank you Marnie.

We headed off on what was to become a very enjoyable day enabling us to take in the wonderful views on offer and share with our walking friends. As we had two new members along, it was also an opportunity for us all to get to know each other and for them to receive an idea of just one example of what our club has to offer in way of a day of exercise, discovery and friendship.

Morning tea with a view is always terrific and through the day listening for the sounds of wild life keeps us aware of the variety the bush has to offer. We wondered at the sight of balancing rock but decided not to extend our walk to the razorback on Castle Crag. Walking along the Lyre Bird track we didn't see as many flowers as sometimes are blooming but it was still very nice.

Of course refreshments back at O'Reilly were welcomed by one and all. Laurel brought along her bird books for reference and we also were lucky enough to have Adam with us who is our resident bird expert, but unfortunately there were not a lot to see on this day. Maybe next time.

Your walks are always a delight Laurel so thank you for your time on putting this walk together for us.
The WT &LBT team



Where: - Mts May and Maroon

When: - Weekend 25th-26th June 2011

Leaders: - Judy Moody-Stuart and Tracy Ryan

A brief summary:-

From the carpark at the Mt May Reserve, up over the tops of Mt May and Paddy's Peak and down to Paddy's Plain campsite for the night.

Next day, up the big gorge on Mt Maroon to the top and back again then on to the shuttle cars parked at Drynan's hut.

Heading off

The details:-

With Betty, Hilary and Mats in one car and Tracy, Nigel, Judy and Malcolm in another we met up with Pedro and Therese at Rathdowney. From there we proceeded to park one car at Drynan's hut and drove on to the Mt May Reserve.



The walk started straight up Mt May and kept going up for what seemed like ages. We had a quick look from the top of Mt May and then onward through head high regrowth to our lunch stop on Paddy's Peak. This entire area had been totally burnt out not that long ago but to see it now is truly amazing – we could not see the wood for the trees.

Morning tea on the Mt May ridge

Bearing in mind that the group was being led by Tracy and Judy, both Mats and Malcolm thought that a discreet look at Judy's map could do no harm.....



- Mats** *Where are we going now?*
Judy *across here, down this bit and over there.*
Malcolm *What's that spot marked on the map, there? (points to a big ink blot)*
Judy *Pay it no attention – that's just a "random dot".*
Mats and Malcolm *What is a "random dot" ?*
Judy *That marks a point at which we may be able to turn left.*

So, 250 paces further on we headed downhill and by pure coincidence we stumbled upon The Amphitheatre [coincidence?? It was nothing of the sort! Signed: J and T]. Nigel was so awestruck he struck up some dismal operatic noise but was soon struck down by the rest of us.

Not too much further down we hit the fire track, tossed a coin, turned left and lugged our packs on to Paddy's Plain camp site. After the usual pre-dinner ablutions we gathered together and proceeded to demolish two packs of blue vein cheese, olives, dips and chips etc. Following all this we cooked our various meals and proceeded to bed under the stars.

It would have been an uneventful night except for Mats who decided to knock down his tent pole several times and ended up sleeping on the ground *under* the tent floor.

Day two (2) dawned bright and sunny so we stripped down to light day packs just as an apparition in the form of Ted strode out of the mists. We would have started earlier but one of the children was sent back by the sports mistress for his hat. Off we tootled up the gorge and we soon encountered the slippery rocks – some of us went left, some went right and some fell over in the middle. I don't like to point out that I regularly donate blood to the Red Cross and I resent having to dump more of it into some creek out in the wilds.

There were also lots of large fallen trees that necessitating either leaping over or crawling under and there was a lot of whinging from some. When God designed the human form he made some of them to be tall, graceful, elegant "MANGO PICKERS" and others to be squat, gnome-like "MUSHROOM PLUCKERS". It is written that the "MANGO PICKERS" must always be, when following a "MUSHROOM PLUCKER", a minimum of ten (10) paces to the rear thus giving them time to devise an alternate route to that chosen by the vertically challenged person in front. If the reverse situation applies and the leaping of tall buildings is called for.....well, who cares !

Finally we popped out at the top of the gorge (well really, most of us just fizzled) and had a snack break at the cairn on Mt Maroon and a chance to admire the 360 degree views of the scenic rim and the nearby Mts Barney and Lindsay.

Then followed a bit of exploratory work (aimless wanderings, really) looking for "the crater" and admiring the flowering Banksia sp. and the return struggle down the gorge with nearly all of us throwing ourselves into the creek bed at various times.

Back at the camp site we hoisted our big packs once more and proceeded to stumble out to Drynan's Hut with only a quick diversion to admire Paddy's falls. After a reverse car shuffle we retreated to Rathdowney for coffee/tea and bits of something that had been languishing in a bain-marie for most of the weekend. Tracy made me promise not to mention the flat tyre on the way home, so I won't.

Important things learned:-

- 1) Elephants are related to dugongs
- 2) the tasty bits in oysters are mostly their gonads

On top of Mt Maroon

Post script:-

If there are any fellow Redland Bushwalkers who, in the absence of Moses or his ilk, are looking for someone to lead them into, through and out of the wilderness they need look no further than the ladies that are our walk leaders – they are truly brilliant.



Report: Malcolm

[Tracy's note: we were indeed very surprised how damp and slippery the gorge was given that there had been no rain for well over a week and water levels were right down. Earlier trips in the same gorge were bone dry for most of the way. Other walkers might like to note the changed conditions.]

PS: Does anybody have a good cure for scrub itch? One of our walkers has been suffering mightily and would kill for a cure. Please send tips to the ed.



Where: Kobble Creek via Heartbreak Ridge

When: Sunday 3 July

Leaders: Tracy Ryan and Ken Walters

Eight walkers, including two Gen Y visitors, fronted up for an adventure in Kobble Creek in Brisbane Forest Park; this was the first time in this area for some and the third time in as many weeks for others, so it was a real mixed bag. Finding the start of Heartbreak Ridge has proved a bit of a challenge in the past because it is very overgrown and there are numerous footpads heading in all directions, so this time considerable care was taken to avoid previous week's mistakes. It paid off, and after a long, steady down following the groove dug by logs pulled down the track during logging days, we hit South Kobble Creek exactly as planned. We turned left and headed upstream.

South Kobble Creek is open and clean, and the water is crystal clear, so it was a lovely walk – until it started raining.

Safety beating bravery, we held a short conference and all agreed that the best course of action was to leave the creek, even though we were less than half way to our intended exit route. Fortunately we happened to be right at the bottom of a ridge that led almost straight to the old logging road that links up with the end of the Lepidozamia Track. As it turned out, this ridge had no barbed wire vine, lantana, loose rocks or slippery slabs, so off we went, not quite believing our luck. Previous exits along Kobble Creek had resulted in steep scrambles up the sorts of ridges sensible people try to avoid: full of prickly things, loose rocks, fallen trees etc etc, so to find a clear grassy ridge was a luxury. It even came with a footpad!

Even so, it was pitilessly steep, and by the time we reached the knoll, we were well and truly ready for lunch.

By this stage the clouds were right down and we were all getting cold and damp, so we didn't linger long before setting off to find the logging road and the track. From there it was very straightforward, and we were back at the cars by about 2.30, and noses in coffee and cakes by 3pm.

Even though we didn't achieve our goal, it was an interesting day in an area most of us were not very familiar with.

Report: Tracy

Where: Panorama Point, Main Range

When: 3-5 June

Leader: Rob Santry

The campsite on the tip of Panorama Point is one of those iconic places you never forget. It's the size of a pinhead and has 360 degree views of both ends of the Main Range, and the plains on the east and west. At night you can see the lights of Warwick and Ipswich and all the places in between.

This is one of the reasons six walkers signed up for this walk as soon as the sheet was put out: they knew what they were in for.

So off we set on the Friday evening: Rob, Ted, Judy, Tracy, Hilary and Betty, all packed into two 4wds. It's always a long drive through Cunningham's Gap and out through Yangan to the "other side" of the Main Range, but by about 10.30pm we'd managed to find a dry (ish) spot to put up our tents, and we crashed into bed.

Saturday morning we were up with the birds (well Ted was) and breakfasted and packed up ready for our day's walk.

The route took us up Davies Ridge to the main track along the north-south ridge, then up Lower Panorama, Middle Panorama and finally the Point itself. The rain has really sent the vegetation crazy in the past few months, and some of us actually walked straight by the main campsite on Panorama without even seeing it: and it's a pretty big area!

Xanthorrea, banksias and other plants may have thrived up there, but unfortunately so has the raspberry and lantana, and quite some time was spent fighting off the attacking prickles.

We reached our destination nice and early and enjoyed happy hour to the setting sun: a fabulous sight on a clear evening like we had.



Because of space limitations we all slept under two flies, all laid out like – well, mummies really, especially later that night when it got cold and we all pulled the hoods of our sleeping bags over our heads. Even the critters trying to get into bed with us couldn't find a way in.

A beautiful clear morning arrived, and after a fairly leisurely breakfast we packed up and headed back down to the cars. We were out early enough to have time to drive back via the Condamine, which added to our panoramic weekend. Thank you Rob for organizing it.



Bits and pieces

Beware the broken grigri!

Outdoor clubs have been sent a warning and product recall from manufacturer Petzl about its Grigri 2, so if you know what a grigri is, click here: <http://www.petzl.com/en/outdoor/recall-replacement-grigri-2>.

Turn your phone into a tree

'Old phones, more trees' is a joint initiative between MobileMuster and Landcare Australia. They are aiming to collect and recycle 250,000 handsets plus accessories in exchange for grants.

The Landcare and Coastcare groups will use these grants to plant up to 25,000 seedlings, stabilise dunes, revegetate degraded coastal areas and remove weeds to restore our coastal ecosystems. All mobiles and accessories collected will be recycled to the highest environmental standards. None will go to landfill or be sold into developing countries.

Groups can help by setting up a temporary collection point at their club and encourage all members to bring their old mobiles in for recycling – MobileMuster can provide a box and posters and then pick them up from you.

To find out more about Landcare and Coastcare visit www.landcareonline.com.au. For more information on MobileMuster visit www.mobilemuster.com.au.

National Parks Association of Qld appeal 2011

The National Parks Association of Queensland (NPAQ) needs our support. The NPAQ needs additional funds to maintain its advocacy work to ensure the Queensland Government delivers its promise of increasing the National Park estate by 50% by 2020.

For more information:

http://www.npaq.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=38&Itemid=102



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