



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163

May 2011

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 8 June 2011

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

July-December walks calendar now available

Thank you to the 10 or so members who came to contribute ideas to our walks planning meeting on 1 June. It was a fruitful meeting and we have some exciting new walks to look forward to in the next six months.

The walks are being added to the calendar on our website, so keep an eye on it over the next couple of weeks.

And don't forget that new walks can be added at any time. There are some gaps later in the year, so if anybody wants to suggest or lead a walk then, please let our outings officer, Steve, know. His contact details are at the end of this newsletter.

Please note that it is a Club requirement that all walks go through the committee via the outings officer, so don't send suggestions straight to our calendar maestro Hilary R as she won't necessarily know which ones have been approved and which haven't.

For those who have the time to walk mid-week, keep an eye on Ken's new Wednesday walks series. He specializes in extra interesting walks that many members may not have done before.

Drivers rejoice as charges rise

As we all know, our Club really encourages carpooling to our activities, partly to save the planet and partly because often there is a limited number of parking spots at the start of many walks.

Because of rising petrol prices, the committee has moved to recommend that each passenger pays the driver 10c/km or \$10/100km, with a minimum of \$10. Alternatively passengers and driver can negotiate their own rate.

If they wish, drivers may also pool the money they collect and share it equally between themselves; this will get around the problems of different numbers of passengers in the cars.

Upcoming Activities

Click here for our complete calendar: www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au. Keep an eye out for the signup sheets at the June 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 June.

11-13 June: through walk, Black Canyon, O'Reilly's. Contact Mats, 3822 1303.

Sat 18 June: social walk, Norman Creek. Contact Marnie Thompson, 3829 3270.

Sun 19 June: day walk, Wishing Tree and Lyrebird tracks, O'Reilly's. Contact Laurel Santry, 0438080157.

25-26 June: through walk, Mts May and Maroon. Contact Judy judy@moody-stuart.net or Tracy prestonhome@inet.net.au

Sun 26 June: Bike ride, Brissie to Bay. Contact Laurel Santry, 0438080157.

Wed 29 June: day walk, Love Creek Falls, Brisbane Forest Park. Contact Ken, 3344 1927.



Myrtle rust warning



Numerous alerts are going out about a new fungal disease that is threatening our precious bushland. All Club members are encouraged to find out about it, especially what we can all do to help prevent it spreading.

What is it? It's a serious fungal disease that affects plants such as lillypillies, bottle brush, tea tree (meleuca) and eucalypts.

Where is it? It's been found in 45 places in Queensland, including Lamington National Park.

Can it be eradicated? No. It is expected to continue to spread because it produces large numbers of spores that are easily spread by wind, animals and human activity.

What can we do to help? The authorities are asking everybody to let them know if we see it so they can work out how much it has spread.

To find out more: http://www.dpi.qld.gov.au/4790_19788.htm.



Coming up: The Pilgrimage and Festival of Walks

The **Pilgrimage** is an annual event where members of Queensland's bushwalking clubs get together for a weekend of new walks and socializing with each other. Even the most socially uninclined will get something out of attending as you will have the opportunity to go on brand new walks in areas we don't normally visit, and also to talk to members of other clubs about common and not so common matters of mutual interest. Just think how many new conversations you could have about boots!

This year the Sunshine Coast Bushwalking Club is hosting it, and all the information is now on their club website: www.sunshinecoastbushwalkingclub.com

Dates are 26-28 August. The venue is Kenilworth Showgrounds.

The **Festival of Walks** in the Maleny - Montville area will run separately from the Pilgrimage from 19 to 28th August. <http://www.festivalofthewalks.com.au/>

However, both organisation committees are liaising with each other to arrange some bushwalker leaders to assist with the Festival during the week leading up to the Pilgrimage. If any bushwalking club member wishes to help out (and attend both events), please contact the BWQ secretary: <http://www.bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/>.



Activity reports

Where: Pt Pure, nr Gatton

When: 28-29 May

Leader: Mats Andersson

After a couple of cancellations, the last one by a pyjama-clad individual who shall remain anonymous, we were six brave purists who set off from Casuarina camping area along the farm road leading into the Blackfellow Creek valley.

A 45 minute stroll on flat ground came to an abrupt end at Abbott's yards, where we veered off onto the beginning of a narrow ridge. From here on the day consisted of **UP**, **UP**, and then more **UP**, a change in altitude of more than 600m over the next 5 hours. Thankfully, the superb views made it enjoyable, although if you had asked us at the 5th false summit, maybe the answer would have been different. A well earned lunch was had at the 800m knoll with 360 deg. views, the food tastes nicer with a view, don't you think?



We then dropped sharply down (all that lovely hard earned altitude lost) to the razorback, and then back **UP** again. Finally up at the top, we filled our water bottles in Shady Creek, and made our way through the ever present cobbles pegs, which made us look more like a row of echidnas, to Point Pure. We set up camp in the saddle 300m behind Point Pure, had the usual competition about who will stay up the longest, then all went to bed at 7:30.



The following morning, we crossed over the other branch of Shady Creek, and started climbing up (yes, there were ups this day too) the ridge on the other side. Unfortunately, we were too far east and had to battle horrible scunge for about 45 minutes, I had cleverly placed myself at the back at this time, and had (reluctantly, of course) to let Ted and Malcolm bash through at the front. The ridge cleared as we moved west, and then after a nice flat section, we arrived at what we thought had ceased to exist, a **DOWN**.

And what a down it was, extremely steep at first, but the views, both up the valley towards Goomburra, and down past Pt. Pure were stunning. We had lunch at the upper yards, then a 2 hour walk out along the valley floor.

You could see where the recent flooding had gouged out huge ruts, some a couple of metres deep, it must have been an awesome sight when it was on.

On the walk were: Betty, Judy, Marika, Malcolm, Ted and Mats.

Report: Mats Andersson



Where: Mt Greville

When: 15 May

Leader: Carmel Cash and Ken Walters

On a beautiful autumn morning 11 members left the carpark to enjoy and be challenged by the stunning uniqueness of this mountain.

Our first stop was near the base of Waterfall Gorge. We dropped our backpacks to venture further down this gorge to actually view water falling over rock faces and into deep clear waterholes, while wending its way further down the gorge. Once this was the only way to ascend Mt Greville.

We continued rock hopping, climbing, talking, clambering, struggling and laughing up the gorge, stopping briefly to marvel at things like a colourful butterfly resting on a rock.

Further up, we encountered a juvenile carpet python. Our new Safety and Training Officer, Ken, did well to dispel fellow walkers' fears by focusing on the markings and abilities of this fascinating creature. Cameras appeared from backpacks for our own special photo shot of this snake. During the photo opportunity, the snake and one keen photographer were jolted with shock as the Nokia phone/camera fell onto the snake. What a scene!! You can use your imagination Here!!! Konfident Ken came to the rescue of both parties. Peace and quiet regained as snake moved on, Nokia safely returned to backpack.



Morning tea was enjoyed viewing the glistening Moogera Dam and surrounding district, and a well earned lunch was eaten right at the summit while absorbing the spectacular panorama.

The descent through Palm Valley Gorge was slow, and allowed us to enjoy the stunning scenery this gorge offers. There was lots of new undergrowth after all the rain, with 40m palms gently swaying in the breeze as their tops popped over the top of the Gorge. A couple of minutes silence was taken to experience the serenity and beauty of this mountain.

The walkers enjoyed a well earned coffee back at Aratula. A memorable day of bushwalking. As for the leader, thanks to Ken, Safety and Training Officer, fellow walkers for your support and encouragement on the great day on Mt Greville. Returning home, Bubbles on Bubbles completed a great successful day.

Report: Carmel

Where: Gold Coast Hinterland Great Walk; Springbrook to Numinbah

When: Sunday 29 May

Leader: Mike Vose and Kerrie Coulter

Departing right on schedule at 6.30am, Dave, our bus driver, collected our 20 walkers from scheduled pick up points at Capalaba, Cleveland and Victoria Point and delivered us to the start of the walk at the Settlement campground in Springbrook. A fine morning, a general knowledge quiz from Kerrie, some tall stories from Mike and a glorious drive from Mudgeeraba up to Springbrook all made the bus trip go quickly.



We departed the campground at 8.45am, took in the views from the top of Purlingbrook Falls and then walked down to, and under, the Falls themselves. On this fine autumn morning they looked spectacular. We had morning tea near Waringal Pool, and then made the first of four creek crossings we would make during the day. Not much water in the creeks, but not one was crossed without the odd slip by one or two of us with water entering the boots.

After a fairly hard slog up to Apple Tree Creek, (you didn't tell us about this Mike), we stopped for lunch. Then came the descent down the 900 steps! Yes, 900 there were and Narelle McF counted them to make sure! After a brief stop at the Woonoongoora Walkers camp, we strolled down to Numinbah Hall, arriving at 3pm. Dave and his bus were waiting there for us.

A change of clothes, a short ride to our coffee stop at Coomera, then a pleasant bus ride home. Arriving home right on schedule by 6pm!

Thanks to Kerrie and Mike for organising this walk, and to our "tail end Charlie" Steve for patiently assisting John to complete the walk.

(PS: ed apologises for not including the other pix supplied with this report but this one was so spectacular she took an executive decision to make it extra big and let it stand on its own.)



Where: Blue Mountains, NSW

When: April-May

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Log of the Blue Mountains extended trip April-May 2011

29-30 April – Drive to Katoomba (Ted)

This trip has been on my bucket list for a while and we seven set off in two 4WDs on Friday afternoon for the drive to Katoomba. Our first overnight stop was Tenterfield, where a couple of cabins had been booked. The cabin we five shared was very basic, as the bunk beds were tiered three deep and with one double bed, while Rob and Laurel had a cabin to themselves. Barbara and Frank meanwhile were well ahead of us having left several days early and travelled via the Warrambungles. With driving being shared among a couple of us, we departed Tenterfield early and drove via the Putty Road to Katoomba. Our GPS kept us off the main roads west of Sydney and via some circuitous lanes dropped us on the Western Freeway at the lower Blue Mts. A detour via Leura to collect our keys soon had us at Cedelland, our base for the next week, where we indulged in a pre-prepared meal of steak and guinness stew supplied by the blond twins.



1 May 11 - Wentworth and National Pass (Hilary)

On our first morning in Katoomba we awoke to a thick, damp, cold fog – causing us to don our jackets and beanies for the short drive to Wentworth Falls where we met with Barb and Frank. The views were hiding under a white coating as we descended right to the bottom of the falls via a series of metal stairs, so steep some were enclosed in a metal cage and we climbed down backwards. Together with several ooh aah stops to enjoy the various rock formations, ferns, mosses and fungi; we followed the Wentworth Pass track along the creek, finally enjoying morning tea alongside a small waterfall – before ascending towards a now blue sky and the National Pass track, created mid-level along the cliff by Captain Murray in 1908, an awesome feat. With the air now clear and crisp photo opportunities and general marvelling at the intricately eroded rock layers and views were copious. Lunch was enjoyed on a small rock outcrop.



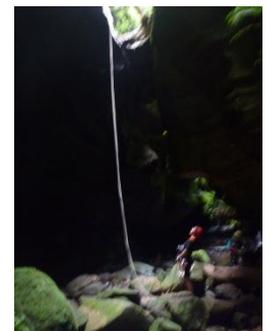
Once back at the cars, we drove to the Conservation Hut to check out a possible abseil down Empress Falls at a later date – some of our group watched a commercial group of novice abseilers descend the centre of the falls in full wet suits. The water temperature, we gleaned, was only 7degrees and the abseil about 33metres....brrrrr! On coming back to the top we found Betty (no voice) Laurel (forgotten her reading glasses) and Rob (can't hear with his earpiece) posing in front of the camera as the three wise monkeys! Then it was back to Barb's house to enjoy her warm apple cake and coffee..yummy.... before returning to Cedelland our home for the week to tart ourselves up for a Chinese meal at the local RSL..... a great start to the week.



2 May 11 - Grand Canyon walk and canyoning. (Rob)

We drove to Evans Lookout carpark and there we had great views of the Grose Valley. We then climbed down stairs through a pass in the cliff line into a narrow canyon covered in ferns and tree ferns and down cut stone stairs to the intersection of the Rodriguez Pass and the Grand Canyon on Greaves Creek. The lower part of the canyon is narrow and well vegetated and the trail changes from the formed track to off track. We passed an overhanging cliff called the Rotunda, with cascading ferns and a fine misted waterfall where we all stood on a sand beach under the overhang and admired the view. It was a photographer's paradise. An exhausting climb up a set of stairs to the top of the canyon gave us only glimpses of the canyon below. We then went along a narrow path with overhanging cliff where you had to crouch down to move forward. A handrail was the only protection you had from falling into the canyon. Water was oozing from the rock faces that were covered with moss and lichens.

A point was reached where we intended to descend into the canyon via abseil. National parks had set up a bomb-proof anchor point of stainless steel chains bolted into the rock. We all put on our wet suits while Ted set up the abseil and safety. Barb



was the first to go down. The abseil consisted of a wet sloping rock surface to an angular lip of an overhang. Under the overhang it was pitch black with only a shaft of light to the canyon floor. It was now my turn as I edged my way over the lip and after giving myself (and others) some verbal encouragement (*\$#!), I went over the edge and descended to the canyon floor some 17 metres below. Hilary was next and as she descended the rope, she just disappeared over the edge...gulp! Eventually we all descended into the canyon successfully and safely.



The canyon was narrow and the walls were overhung as they zigzagged up to the light. In places with only shafts of light illuminating the moss covered rock walls and fern covered ledges. We traversed ledges along the sides of the canyon. The sandstone rock was good to walk on with plenty of grip. We were not able to avoid all the pools of water and had to swim in the very cold water. We scrambled over log-jams and through more pools eventually to a 20 to 30 metre swim and out of the canyon. It was an amazing experiencejust like being in another world.

We changed into dry warm clothing and walked out to the Neates Glen carpark and a hot cup of coffee or tea at a local café. A great day and *we all wanted to do it again*. Dinner was a spicy beef curry made by Ted and helpers.

3 May 11 - Empress Canyon & Federal Pass via Giant Staircase (Betty)

Our destination as we headed off into the chilly fog was the Canyon that leads onto the Empress Falls. We looked like some kind of rare exotic birds with our outfits of wetsuits over multi-coloured thermals topped with beanies, boots and gloves. After a short walk we dropped into the creek at the head of the canyon and met with our first challenge. A deep dark cave filled with icy water. As there was nowhere to attach a rope, our options were to start with a 3metre jump down into icy water (8 degrees C) or 'chicken out'. The guidebook made no indication of any chance of an exit before the falls and with some of our party already shivering, we decided that hypothermia was not an option and added this Canyon to our summer wish list. We followed the path back to the foot of Empress Falls, where we surprised the camera and backup crew by coming in on the track, not over the falls as anticipated. They still shared their tea and scones with us as we sat and admired the beautiful Empress Falls.



Lunch was back at Cedelland from where we walked to Echo Point to view the magnificent Three Sisters now under clear blue skies. From there we tested our calf muscles on the dramatic descent of 860 steps to the Jamison Valley and followed along the beautiful scenery of Federal Pass to the Scenic Rail. There we joined the tourists for a 'funicular' ride in the open cars of the Scenic Rail. This is the steepest rail in the world with its origins between 1878 and 1900 as part of Katoomba coal mining. Just a short stroll home for a glass of red and then a delightful roast dinner courtesy of Barbara and Frank at their abode in Wentworth finished the day.



4 May 11 - Walls Pass - duration 9 hours (Laurel)

Ted promised us a full day of walking with lots of diversity and a bit of adventure....and he delivered! I was thinking that the first section of this walk although reasonably long (7km) was a "walk in the park" as we strode our way out along a fire break towards the radio tower on Narrow-neck Plateau. Turning off this track, we then weaved our way through the light scrub along a bit of a trail to our abseil point (Walls Pass). Here we donned our abseil gear and descended what was supposed to be a 10 metre drop, but in actual fact was a 16 metre drop. This definitely was a "walk in the park" for those who had already successfully abseiled in the Grand Canyon two days before. For some, like me, this was a first abseil in an unfamiliar environment....and surprisingly, I lived to tell the tale (maybe this abseiling isn't as hard as my "committee of AHs on my shoulders are telling me!)



The next section of the walk, although a short section, proved to be the most time consuming as our navigators scoured the area to find ways to navigate down towards the creek, while avoiding the small cliffs dotted throughout the landscape. Lots and lots of downhill scrambling and some muddy bum slides as well. Then it was up and up, and over not just one knoll, but two, until we reached the "Ruined Castle"....absolutely spectacular.

Our greatest worry at this stage was the looming sunset....so we scurried our way back along the track until we reached the "Golden Staircase".....I am not sure what was golden about this staircase

though. By this time everyone was feeling the effects of the long and physically demanding day, so the thought of mounting this track staircase for another 3/4 hour tested our mental fortitude especially in the fading light. We made it....and in true bush-walking style, we only seem to reminisce about the amazing time we had in the Blue Mountains, the fantastic landscape, the exotic fungi, the superb navigating and of course the great company.....even the sore muscles don't seem to rate a mention.....another brilliant walk. Dinner that night was take away whole chicken as everyone was too tired to cook.....Laurel

5 May 11 - Crayfish Canyon (Judy)

After a tough walk yesterday, most were happy to indulge in cafes, coffee, cakes and wandering the shops of Katoomba. The hat shop and Paddy Pallin's were favourites. A few new maps, a couple of hats, a new billy, tape for others and some books were the order of the morning. After lunch five of us ventured to Crayfish Canyon. A drive to Blackheath and a three km walk along the forestry road set us up for a bush bash to Crayfish Creek, above the canyon. The creek was quite scrubby, but there was a rough trail to follow.

Suddenly, the creek did a sharp right turn into a deep dark cleft, about 1.5m wide, but chest deep water. A couple of submerged ledges enabled Ted to get through dry, others gave up and just waded in. This canyon twisted and turned for about 100m. We did put on wetsuits for the deeper pools. As we emerged from this



section, we realised that to do the rest, would see us out after dark. Hence, we departed the creek via some scrambles over rocky outcrops and went up the ridge back to the road and our car. This canyon will require a full day, due to overgrown vegetation. We made a detour via Perry's Lookdown for some photos of glorious sunsets on the sandstone walls of Grose Valley, and then headed back to Katoomba for Laurel's spaghetti dinner.

6 May 11 – Mt Solitary Through Walk (Rebbies)

The dawn sky appeared on Friday crystal clear and of course rather cold. With such great walking weather we were soon on our way with Mt Solitary's cliffs gleaming in the sunlight. Descending the Golden Stairs, where Parks maintenance crew were busy reconstructing some of the steps, soon warmed up the legs. After peeling off a few layers it was nice to be able to take our time retracing the Ruined Castle track with Rob and Ted pointing out historic spots of interest from the coal mining days of another era.

On our way up to the Ruined Castle, we decided to climb up a rocky slab to admire the view and in a flash our day changed when one of our team fell four metres. Fortunately a tree helped break the fall but added to the abrasions. To their credit everybody kept their composure scrambling back down, mindful of how easily another accident could happen, and emergency first aid was actioned. To our great relief our patient was conscious, surrounded by a sea of first aid kits, sleeping bags for warmth and patched up with TLC.

We were able to continue the short distance to Ruined Castle and most of the group climbed to the top to enjoy the 360° views to Mt Solitary, the Jamison Valley and back towards Narrowneck and Walls Pass. Unfortunately, we had to abort the walk, but fortunately the injured party was able to walk out and we all ascended the Golden Staircase again. I think everyone was mindful that the day could have turned out very differently and that accidents can happen no matter how experienced one is. A delicious salmon dinner finished off the day.



7-8 May 11 The drive home (Ted)

Having recovered sufficiently from my fall, we packed the cars, returned the house keys and began our drive home via Bell's Line of road and the Putty Highway. Barbara and Frank after visiting Jenolan Caves drove home later that day. We stopped for lunch at the Grey Gum Café half way along the Putty Road, where I left behind my phone, but that was not discovered until we were in Muswellbrook, several hours later. Some clever detective work by Rebbies and Judy soon had me on a phone back to the café. One of the girls there was kind enough to take my details and offered to post the phone back to me. (Which arrived a week later). We had booked a cabin in Tamworth, that was a much better cabin than the one in Tenterfield. We ate a meal in the local pub and while the others stayed for the C&W music, I left early to ease my aches. The rest of the drive home was uneventful. Some goodies were purchased at the red apple at Applethorpe and lunch at Aratula BP. We were home, satisfied after a great adventure somewhat shaken but not stirred.

Bits and pieces

DERM has finalized a number of management plans outlining how these areas will be managed to protect their special natural features. These plans will be in effect for 10 years and cover the following QPWS managed estates:

- Epping Forest National Park (Scientific)
- Mazeppa National Park
- Minerva Hills National Park
- Nicoll Scrub National Park
- Welford National Park
- Wondul Range National Park.

A copy of each plan is available on the DERM website www.derm.qld.gov.au, or by phoning 13 QGOV (13 74 68). Hard copies can be inspected or obtained during normal business hours at:

Brisbane CBD Business Centre
Landcentre
Level 2, Cnr Main and Vulture Street
Woolloongabba QLD 4102

Please contact Kamilla Wyeth on (07) 3330 5219 if you have any queries or require further information about the management plans.



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