



# Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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

email: [redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com](mailto:redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com)

PO Box 101 Cleveland 4163

## April 2011

### Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 2011

7:00 for 7:30 start

Indigiscapes Centre Runnymede Rd Capalaba

## Welcome to our new committee

Our AGM has come and gone, and so has our annual election of our club's office-bearers. Here they are:

President:	Denise Kolcze, re-elected
VP, leader liaison:	Tracy Ryan, re-elected
Secretary:	Sue Reid, takes over from Mats Andersson
Memberships:	Carmel Cash, re-elected
Walks calendar:	Steve Tolcher, takes over from Phil Fryer
Equipment:	Denise Mitchell, re-elected
Treasurer:	Narelle McFadden, replaces Wayne Porter
Newsletter:	Tracy Ryan, takes over from Sue Reid
Safety and training:	Ken Walton, replaces Errol Perry

We are still short a social officer, so if anybody loves to organise things, please let us know. Contact details at the end of this newsletter.



## Membership information

The question of when exactly our memberships expire was discussed at the AGM. Here is the latest information:

Our memberships run from 1 Jan to 31 Dec. However, we have until 31 March to renew. And new members who join between 30 June and 31 Dec only pay \$15.

Our financial year ends on 31 March, which means memberships are not in line with our financial year.

Confused? Ask one of the committee members, and hopefully they will be able to explain it.

# Upcoming Activities

Click here for our complete calendar: [www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au](http://www.redlandbushwalkers.org.au). Keep an eye out for the signup sheets at the May 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 May.

**Sat 7 May:** social walk and breakfast bbq. Meet at 7am at Thompson's Beach, Victoria Pt. Contact Kerrie Coulter, 3822 7259.

**Sun 8 May:** day walk, Ravensbourne National Park. Contact Steve Tolcher, 3207 6732 or 0423953824.

**Sat-Sun 14-15 May:** FMR radio procedures, searching patterns, navigation. Contact Ted Wassenberg, 0428753297.

**Sun 15 May:** Tooloona Cct, O'Reilly's. Contact Laurel Santry, 0438080157.

**Sun 15 May:** Fernvale rail trail cycle. Contact Steve Tolcher, , 3207 6732 or 0423953824.

**Sat-Sun 21-22 May:** throughwalk Mt Nimmel to Springbrook. Contact Ted Wassenberg, , 0428753297.

**Sat-Sun 28-29 May:** throughwalk, Pt Pure. Contact Mats Andersson, 3822 1303.

**Sun 29 May:** Gold Coast great walk and bus trip. Contact Kerrie Coulter, 3822 7259, or Mike Vose, 3286 3938.

**Sun 29 May:** TBA. Contact Laurel Santry, 0438080157.



## What do all the initials mean?

**BWQ:** Bushwalking Queensland Inc (BWQ) is the peak body that represents the interests of bushwalkers and members of 24 affiliated clubs in Queensland, including Redland Bushwalkers Inc. Its website contains lots of useful information: <http://www.bushwalkingqueensland.org.au/index.html>

**FMR:** Federation Mountain Rescue was formed as a search and rescue and bushwalking training organization. It offers regular training for bushwalkers, specializing in the skills that we all need if we are to continue to enjoy our chosen activity. For more information: <http://fmrqld.bwq.org.au/index.html>

## Photo comp

A reminder to all those budding photographers out there, as well as those of you who have managed to capture a fantastic fluke shot, to save your photos for the photo comp in August.

Pick up an information sheet at the next Club meeting or phone Laurel: 0438080157

**Two of last year's top entries:**



*I've grown attached to this sign*



*Has-beanies*



# Please read: RBW has a new grading system

At the March committee meeting the committee voted to adopt the Australian Walking Track Grading System (AWTGS). It will replace our current system that has been in place since about 2007.

The reasons are:

- members have raised concerns about our current system (confusing, different from other clubs etc).
- many newer members are probably unaware of our current system as we haven't provided any training or really discussed it for a couple of years
- our new website currently provides no information about our grading system so now is a very good time to revisit the issue
- with the completion of the AWTGS there is now an Australia-wide system that was developed with input from bushwalking organisations (including BWQ)

The decision was not taken lightly. The committee spent about three months considering it, and we also consulted with the Club members who were most involved with developing our former systems. We also consulted with BWQ as our peak body. Most of our own Club's most experienced members, and BWQ, recommended that if we were to change our system, we should adopt the AWTGS.

We realise this is a big step as we all need to learn how it works. We plan to have a training session for leaders and any interested members, and we will also talk about it at the Club meetings.

In the meantime, we urge all our members to find out more:

<http://www.land.vic.gov.au/DSE/nrenrt.nsf/LinkView/D3EB770FE7869AD3CA25722E0000208EE251BEF72F258AB04A2567BD00271F6B>.

The users' guide is here:

[http://www.land.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/F4AAB0F1DBE7354DCA25775E001D5423/\\$File/dse\\_trail\\_grade\\_brochure\\_tagged.pdf](http://www.land.vic.gov.au/CA256F310024B628/0/F4AAB0F1DBE7354DCA25775E001D5423/$File/dse_trail_grade_brochure_tagged.pdf)



## Our AGM quiz

To liven up our AGM we held a quiz about the Club and bushwalking generally. We even had prizes! Most people did well, with most getting most of the 10 questions right. Our overall winner was Ted Wassenberg, who scored a perfect 10/10. For those who weren't there, here it is: the answers are at the end of the newsletter.

1. Which track doesn't belong in the Lamington National Park.
  - a. Queen Mary Falls
  - b. Elabona Falls
  - c. Stairway Falls
2. Who is the Treasurer of Redland Bushwalkers Inc?
  - a. Phil
  - b. Carmel
  - c. Wayne
3. What are 3 essential items in your pack.
  - a. Chewing gum
  - b. Water
  - c. Food
  - d. Warm gear

- e. First aid kit
  - f. Jelly beans
  - g. Tissues
  - h. Toilet paper
  - i. Spade
4. How far from a running creek should you pee (wee walk).
- a. 25 metres
  - b. 50 metres
  - c. 100 metres
5. What sort of things should you keep away from waterways?
- a. soap
  - b. pesticide
  - c. sunblock
  - d. food
  - e. plastic bags
  - f. camera
6. How do you remove a tick?
- a. cover tick with salt.
  - b. Grab hold of the tick body firmly and twist off.
  - c. Suffocate the tick with a liberal application of petroleum jelly.
  - d. Grasp the tick firmly close to the skin and lift up.
  - e. Supply the patient with a large dose of overproof rum to cause the tick to fall over due to intoxication.
7. Your family member has not returned from a walk at the expected time. Who do you contact?
- a. Police
  - b. President of Club
  - c. Contact Officer
8. Mt Tinbeerwah is closest to.
- a. Binna Burra
  - b. Tewantin
  - c. Maleny
  - d. Lamington National Park
9. When a track crosses a creek, what should you do?
- a. walk in a straight line across the creek so you don't miss the track on the other side
  - b. rock hop so you keep your boots dry and don't get blisters
  - c. look for a slow running shallow section to walk across
10. Where is north on a map?
- a. at the top of the map
  - b. depends on where you are facing
  - c. varies depending on the datum
  - d. you need a compass to establish where N is on a map



# Activity reports

**Where:** Ratatat, via O'Reillys

**When:** March

**Leaders:** Hilary Riley and Betty Murray

It poured incessantly for days before our through-walk, and some wimpy members of the party had been muttering about swamps and web-footed friends like a stuck record since the previous Wednesday. Nevertheless, seven brave walkers gathered early on the Saturday, and were met with totally glorious weather that lasted the whole weekend.



So off we set along the border track: Kerrie, Betty, Hilary, Tracy, Rebecca, Barb and our visitor Anna. Surprisingly the border track itself was in worse condition than the rough foot pad of the second half, as it was very muddy in parts. By contrast, the foot pad was a good, mostly clear track up and down (and up and down) the ridgeline over Mts Worendo and Wupawn. "Gee, you guys are fit," said Anna, as she puffed up the hills. Anna also learnt that it's bushwalkers who make a lot of the side tracks.

Despite the good track, there were still lots of POIs (points of interest!), mainly from previous walks: Hilary's down fall, Betty's bum upside turn and half pike fall, Laurel's lurch fall, and so on. A new one was added: Kerrie's stick malfunction fall.

On both days we bravely took a break and ate amid a nest of vipers at Echo Point lookout while Hilary stood guard with her walking pole. Later we learnt from the ranger that is very unusual for a large tiger and several black marsh snakes to live in such close proximity.

We reached Ratatat shortly after lunch and having claimed our camp sites and erected our temporary homes we donned tiny day packs and retraced our steps for a few hundred metres to climb Mt Durigan (1119m) – a first for everyone. It was well worth the steep walk with views at the top through to the cliffs of Springbrook. We admired the interesting plant life, including some black seaweed like lichen. While climbing Durigan we saved a tree from being ring-barked by a tight piece of cord holding up an aged yellow tin lid. With great tenacity Barb undid the ancient knot and on the Sunday we remounted the sign, freshly engraved with a large D, at the Mt Durigan junction off the track to Ratatat.



When it got dark we turned off all our torches and admired the constellations of glow worms, and had an interesting discussion about whether they were really fairies' wings or insect snot.

After our satisfying day we were early to bed when all of a sudden, out of the darkness came a guttural piercing screech. We all froze in our sleeping bags, except, as it turned out, for one tent that didn't have an occupant. Then followed a heart-rending wail, and then another. After the fourth despairing cry we realised it was the ghost of Ratatat that Ted had told us about. Or was it . . . ?

We all took turns leading and track finding on the way back, always a useful experience.

Things we learnt: that several of our packs had an inbuilt whistle on the sternum strap buckle. Well I never, we all said.

**Report: Kerrie et al**



**Where:** Murphy's Creek, via Boonah  
**When:** 26-27 March  
**Leaders:** FMR: Phil Box and Ted Wassenberg

On Saturday we arrived at Murphy's Creek camp ground to a stunning sight. The enormous amount of water that was the January 'inland tsunami' had scoured the once leafy, green creek and adjacent camping area of Murphy's Creek Escape, forming a magnificent canyon suitable for beginner abseiling.

The owners Peter and Lisa were working feverishly to create new Bush camp areas for the Easter crowd. We pitched our tents and were ready for the 9am start.

The major part of the morning was filled with Phil Box and our own Ted Wassenberg leading us through the exciting life of ropes, abseiling hardware and knots - many knots!!

Britney Spears jeans were out and Harry High Pants were in when we donned our abseiling harnesses for the afternoon skills practice on the nursery slopes. The sun was hot on the west-facing cliffs and by the time it slid over the horizon we were all very ready for drinks and nibbles in the Gold Coast contingents' tent.

First thing Sunday morning we headed off for a half-hour, rough 4WD trip through the forest reserve. We reached the top and suddenly the bush opened up to the spectacular Red Cliffs.

Here we donned our gear, once again making sure we were Harry High Pants. The first abseil started with a short, sheer, straight drop to prepare us for the next challenge. This was a much higher abseil with the added excitement of an overhang to negotiate, leaving us in free air to enjoy a twirl or eight and the spectacular view as we dropped to ground level. Most of the group took this on with much satisfaction and elation.



After lunch we had a serious but amusing demonstration by Phil and Ted of various rescue methods. Ted faked a nasty injury and he was rescued by Phil using a series of pulleys and ropes.

*Poor injured Ted is rescued by Phil.*

The final activity for the weekend was a special Phil Box verandah walk. The name conjures images of a stroll around the homestead but in reality it had a large amount of 'scary'. We were, however, safely hooked to ropes by two carabiners as we edged our way around the cliff face, high above the Gorge.



*The verandah walkers in action.*

If you are an experienced abseiler who hasn't been on the ropes for a while or a nervous beginner then these FMR weekends are the perfect way to hone your skills.

Thank you Phil and Ted for the fun way you shared your expertise with the group.



**Report: Hilary Riley and Betty Murray**



**Where:** Moonview Gorge, nr Boonah

**When:** Easter

**Leader:** FMR

Sadly, the base camp for our club was cancelled because of – a lack of interest, basically. This is a huge pity as Moonview Gorge is a beautiful spot and totally private. Sue and Dudley Reid had offered to lead it, so it would have been a great few days with any number of walks for all levels of experience, but . . . .

Meanwhile, abseilers from RBW and other clubs gathered to explore several creeks just below and east of the Main Range peaks of Mt Bell, Mt Roberts and surrounds. The area has numerous fairly unknown creeks that offer a combination of abseiling, scrambling, gorge surfing and other adventures.

*That was fun: now what?!*



About 12 people slowly arrived on the Thursday night and Friday morning, and on Friday the adventures began with a visit to a creek with a couple of spectacular waterfalls that most had not visited before. Those who had visited previously commented on the amount of water that was flowing: not really surprising, given our sodden year so far! On with the harnesses, out with the ropes and we were away. But it was not plain sailing, and back at the camp that night much discussion ensued about the day.



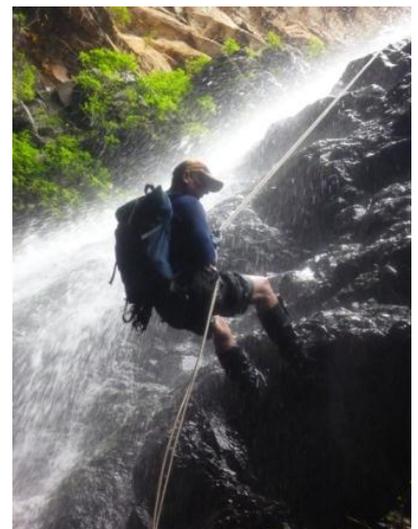
The next day we all set off to explore another creek, this time on the western side of Mt Bangalora. Again, only a couple of people had visited previously, so for the rest it was another new experience. This day was less testing than the previous one, but it also had its challenges, not the least being the disproportionate amount of time and effort required to a) reach the creek that was the object of the exercise, and b) hike from the end of the creek across cattle paddocks back to camp. However, the creek itself was a treasure in terms of thrills and spills: we had to surf through numerous pools and over countless small waterfalls, all on rock that had been worn smooth as a slippery slide by water rushing down over aeons. Everybody loved it, and declared it a huge success. By the time we got back to camp, we had completely circumnavigated Mt Bangalora.

*There's only one way down and that's on that rope*

The next day (which the writer sadly missed) sounded like another treasure of a day, involving perfect conditions in a next to perfect creek. No doubt we'll hear more later on. But again, the day was not without incident.

Moonview Gorge itself has an excellent campsite, and we had it all to ourselves. It is private, but the owners are very welcoming so long as we look after it as they do. An easy ask!

All in all, the Easter activities were well worth it, if only because it taught us all never to be complacent, and never to assume somebody else will always look after us. This applies as much to our most basic activities as it does to abseiling.



*Ted being a clever pants*

**Report: Tracy Ryan**



**Where:** Noosa Heads National Park

**When:** 1 May

**Leader:** Ruth and Bob Hartley



Nine of us set off on a beautiful morning from Parkedge Road, Noosa. In spite of a long weekend and a popular area we had the paths to ourselves most of the time. Only a silent spangled drongo to watch us pass. The track was easy, sandy underfoot, with only slight rises and dips. The map warned limited views but we made the small detour to the top of Noosa Hill anyway, for a glimpse of the ocean and the chance to add to the huge cairn marking the summit. A good place for a rest and a chat. Then downhill towards Tea Tree Bay disturbing one large goanna which wandered away unconcerned. At the beach some of us plunged in for an invigorating dip with waves perfect for body surfing – if only we had the bodies to match.

The lunch stop was at Hells Gates in a patch of dappled shade overlooking the sea with the sounds of the waves crashing on the rocks below.



Then down to Alexandria Beach to find something not normally encountered on club outings – a nudist surf carnival. We managed to navigate our way along the beach feeling like aliens, fully clothed with back packs, before ascending again into the dunes. The track passed between beautiful clumps of giant banksias covered in fresh flowers. The afternoon ended with the usual coffee (tea) and cakes at a pleasant cafe.

Thank you to everybody who made this a very enjoyable relaxing day.

**Report: Ruth Hartley**

## Quiz answers

1. Queen Mary Falls. 2. Wayne (until about 15 minutes later). 3. Water, food and either first aid kit or warm clothes: we allowed both as we should have said name 4 items. 4. 100m. 5. A, b, c and e, although you should keep everything away from waterways. 6. D: if you grab only the body, you risk leaving the head in place. 7. The contact officer: EVERYBODY should have got this right! 8. Tewanin. 9. C. 10. A.



### Committee contact details:

President:	Denise Kolcze	<a href="mailto:dkolcze@bigpond.com">dkolcze@bigpond.com</a>
Secretary:	Sue Reid	<a href="mailto:suz_reid@hotmail.com">suz_reid@hotmail.com</a>
New members:	Carmel Cash	<a href="mailto:carmelcash@bigpond.com">carmelcash@bigpond.com</a>
Walks calendar:	Steve Tolcher	<a href="mailto:steventolcher@hotmail.com">steventolcher@hotmail.com</a>
Equipment:	Denise Mitchell	<a href="mailto:denise@professionalscleveland.com.au">denise@professionalscleveland.com.au</a>
Treasurer:	Narelle McFadden	<a href="mailto:wellie10@bigpond.com">wellie10@bigpond.com</a>
VP, leader liaison:	Tracy Ryan	<a href="mailto:prestonhome@iinet.net.au">prestonhome@iinet.net.au</a>
Newsletter:	Tracy Ryan	<a href="mailto:prestonhome@iinet.net.au">prestonhome@iinet.net.au</a>
Safety and training:	Ken Walton	<a href="mailto:kennethmarie67@optusnet.com.au">kennethmarie67@optusnet.com.au</a>