



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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August 2012

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 8th August, 2012 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

President's Report

I must start this report with a massive big THANK YOU to Denise, who has been keeping the club ticking along in my absence.

Time is flying, July is already over and an exciting August lays ahead. Finally the weather has started to look like the winters we are used to, cool, dry and sunny. So now there are no excuses, dust off your boots, pack away your umbrellas and get out there, who knows how long it will last.

Quite a few club members are heading overseas in the coming month, bon voyage to you all and take care. I hope that you will take plenty of photographs that we all can enjoy on your return.

The Pilgrimage is soon upon us, no, that did not sound right, try again; the exciting Pilgrimage is not far away! Hilary and Betty are moving into overdrive to have everything sorted in time, we are very lucky to have a couple of dynamos like them in the club. They still want a few more empty ice cream containers to use for freezing soup so do your bit! Stuff your faces with loads of yummy ice cream, then send the empty container to HilBet and feel good about yourself for helping out. You can always walk off the calories on one of the fabulous Pilgrimage walks.

Hilary and Betty are not the only ones that are working hard so that the rest of us can have fun, Steve is busy planning the Christmas Party, all the rest of us needs to do is to reserve the weekend of the 23 – 25th of November in our diaries and join in the fun.

See you on the track.

Mats



Upcoming Activities

I know this isn't an Upcoming Activity but would it be possible for anyone who has changed their address, email address, phone number or 'person to contact in an emergency' to please send details of the changes to the club email address: redlandbushwalkers@yahoo.com.au and the committee will update the database accordingly.

Ed



Oh No, not the Pilgrimage again!!!

Despite Malcolm's cheeky email there was a full house for July's Club meeting.

Everybody participated in a brain storming session for the logistics of our upcoming Pilgrimage. The end result being that lots of enthusiastic members volunteered their support for the weekend with 40 members already registered.

A delicious selection of home-made and bought goodies have been offered; even from those unable to attend the event. More offers will be greatly appreciated.

When more accurate attendance numbers are available it will be easier to allocate specific tasks; hopefully by the end of August.

Just in case you have been on Mars and are not aware that your Club is hosting the Bushwalkers Pilgrimage 7-9th September 2012 here is the link. <http://pilgrimage2012.weebly.com/>

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Activity Reports



Where: Stradbroke Island – Dunwich to Point Lookout

When: 15th July 2012

Leader: Rob & Lauren Santry

CLAYTONS BIKE RIDE, *'The bike ride you're having when you're not having a bike ride', or in this case not going where you had originally intended. (Sorry Kevin, I couldn't help myself. Ed)*

This Claytons bike ride was still undertaken despite the very inclement weather leading up to the day of the ride. Due to the heavy precipitation, the Brisbane Rail Trail ride from Linville to Blackbutt was cancelled.

Instead 9 stalwart riders travelled to Stradbroke Island for an exhilarating ride from Dunwich to Point Lookout and return. Led by Rob and Laurel with Michael, Mats & Marika, Don, Wayne, Priscilla and myself following, the barge was boarded at Cleveland for what started as a dull gloomy day. Good fellowship was enjoyed during the barge trip even if there was no coffee shop on board. By the time we reached Dunwich the cloud was showing signs of dispersing.

We all set off at a lively pace to get to Point Lookout. This pace slowed considerable when we reached the first hills near Myora Springs. After about 7km a minor disaster occurred when I threw the chain on my bike, jamming it and breaking a spoke. After some time, and many greasy hands the problem was fixed and we continued on our way. Some 2 km further another problem was encountered when Michael got a flat tyre. This was repaired and we continued on to Point Lookout.



A leisurely, but enjoyable lunch was had at the café. The group then decided that we had time to do the Gorge Walk. By then the cloud had completely disappeared and the sun was shining brightly. From the cliff top the ocean was calm and clear enabling us to watch some surfers and a school of dolphins. Some 2 -3km out further to sea was a pod of whales. Unfortunately the whales were too far away to see anything other than the splash and spout as they surfaced. It was still great to see whales on our Claytons bike ride. They would not have been visible up in the Brisbane Valley.

Following this walk we all mounted our bikes for the return to Dunwich. Apart from a few hills to climb the ride back was uneventful. We all arrived back at Dunwich in time to catch the 4 o'clock barge. This barge had a coffee shop so coffee was enjoyed by all.

Thanks Rob and Laurel for a great day

Kevin Blain.

Thanks go to Kevin for the photo.



Where: Bayview Conservation Park – Redland Bay.

When: Thursday, 19th July, 2012

Leader: Kevin Blain

Five intrepid walkers turned up for this mid-week walk. Marnie, Heather, Helen, Richard and I met at the southern end of Days Road for the commencement of this walk. Unfortunately it had been raining for several days and the area was a bit damp. The clouds cleared and the rain stayed away for the walk.

The walk followed existing tracks along the high ground and we did not have to push through wet vegetation. There are several steep up and down pinches to negotiate, with care being needed on some loose gravel. These hills, while not as high as Mount Cotton, provide as excellent training and fitness venue, and are easily accessible.

From the top of the hills we were able to view Mount Cotton, Bay Islands, Beenleigh and the Gold Coast. Some interesting plant life was observed along with birds and wallabies.

The walk covered about 10 km with only about half a kilometre being duplicated. We returned to our vehicles after about 3 hours. Thank you to all who participated in this mid-week walk.



Where: Illinbah Circuit

When: 22nd July 2012

Leader: Jillian Wilson, Alison Short.

On a very cool morning (mid winter) – 11 walkers keen to take on the circuit, walking in anticlockwise direction; 2 hours down to the Coomera Creek – morning tea after 1st creek crossing; then following the valley floor, through rainforest with many huge trees, crossing the creek 14 times in all - religiously counted! (Some of us marveled at the different look of the creek from years gone by). We headed off to the Gwongoral Pool for our lunch-break, noting the large eel to be still in residence.... only to be moved on by the threat of rain! It was all up the graded track to the cars, taking approximately 5½ hours.

Well done all – new & old friends, potential travelers, and a genuinely nice bunch of people!



Where: Mt Mathieson

When: Saturday 28 July

Leader: Hilary Riley

Staying with our friend Hilary was bound to lead to a wonderful bushwalk and indeed, on Saturday 28 July, she organised just such a walk up Mt Mathieson. Great was everyone's surprise when a third Belgian girl, Tina, turned up (Leen and me both being from Flanders, Belgium). Please accept my apologies, for gibbering on in Flemish for half of the time.

After a long drive my first time ever off road, (2 hours' drive would take you from one side of our little country to the other) we started the walk



from the campsite/parking at Spices Gap. It was beauty all around and very nippy temperatures. Fortunately the track went uphill straight away so we were up to temperature in no time. The woods and mountains are just stunning and we soon reached a first viewpoint where we stopped for a tea break. Then a good part of the walk in more muddy environments with interesting information boards about the tree logging in former times and ... lo and behold the most wondrous lunch spot at The Governor's Chair, Hilary kept this surprise really well! We all tucked into our lunch boxes (according to Leen bush walking is the perfect excuse for a gourmet lunch) and chatted away looking at the extensive views. Yes, that really was Brisbane in the distance!



From then on it was all downhill – in a literal way. We got the sonorous company of a couple of whipbirds and bellbirds all the way down to the car park.

In line with Redlands' bushwalking tradition we had a final cup of coffee, tea or chai before heading home. Thanks Hilary and all of you, lovely bushwalkers!

Marjan

Thanks go to Hilary for the photos



Where: Noosa Heads National Park
When: 15th July 2012
Leader: Bob Hartley

Six members set off from the Parkedge Road entrance through the eucalypts, casuarina and banksia. The banksia were in flower attracting many honeyeaters. We noted Noisy Friarbirds, Lewin's Honeyeaters and an Eastern Spinebill and other birds that remained incognito.



A steep descent to the north end of Sunshine beach was followed by climbing 232 steps (counted by Heather) to get the blood flowing. We had magnificent views of Devil's Kitchen and Lion Rock from the cliff top. Bob tried to convince the group that there were humpback whales out there, but they were just swimming underwater and holding their breath all morning.

From there we walked along Alexandria Beach and climbed up to Hell's Gates. Helen contemplated a mining venture to exploit the layer of black ilmenite that had been exposed at the top of the beach by recent heavy seas.

From Hell's Gates we competed for track space with tourists before the gentle climb in solitude over Noosa Hill back to the cars.

Thanks go to Bob for the photos.



Where: SE Ridge Mt Barney

When: 1 July 2012

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

We awoke on a clear and crisp dawn to see the dawn light painting the east face of Mt Barney a warm orange, revealing the wrinkles and cracks of its many ridges. Most of the group had camped at Barney Lodge for the early start from Yellowpinch car-park while four others had a very early start driving down to join us in the morning.



It was a cool morning and everyone was keen to get going which we did soon after 0700h. Crossing Yellowpinch saddle provided the usual warm up and some of us were soon removing layers of clothing. The ford on the Logan R was slightly higher than usual and as it was the only crossing for the day, most opted to wade across sans boots and socks. Soon we were at the turnoff for SE ridge, from where it is up, up with very little relief from the constant grind.

We had with the group a number of first timers for this ridge, Tracy, Karla, Sue, Mark and Bob; all fit and able walkers. There were numerous, but brief stops on the way up to admire the views and catch our breath. Morning tea was in a short dip on the ridge just after crossing the razorback. The first obstacle requiring a rope was a wet rock slab, about 3m high. Here I set up a rope fitted with foot loops for others to scramble up, but the space between loops was a bit awkward for some. However, everyone managed to get past this obstacle without too much of a struggle.



As we approached the summit, the ridge became narrower and steeper, requiring a lot more scrambling and for some it became more challenging as the exposure increased. The rope was used again at the airiest climb of the day, avoiding the usual gully, which was very wet and slippery. Once past this usual crux, we soon arrived at the top (1230h) for a brief lunch, it had taken us just over 5h to get here.

By 1300h we began our descent to Rum Jungle in the saddle between east and west peaks. It took an hour to get everyone down as Bob was feeling his way carefully having been damaged by the rocks and dense shrubbery. With multiple scrapes and minor cuts he looked as if he had been in the wars. Time was slipping away and I wanted us below the Giant staircase and rock slab lower down before it got dark. My rope was again applied at the Giant staircase, as it too was very wet and slippery. Soon after, we were all down and back at the ford on the Logan R and once again boots and sock were removed by most for the crossing. With the dusk glow and under the almost full moon, we walked back along the road over Yellowpinch and arrived back at the cars at 1745h, it had taken us 10.5h to do the walk. Everyone was elated and full of spirit at having done this walk. Thank you all for your camaraderie and Mark and Trevor for keeping the tail wagging.



Thanks go to Ted to the Photo's



Where: Barney Gorge through-walk

When: 28-29 July 2012

Leader: Kevin Blain

Not having done a through-walk for many years I saw that a beginners walk was planned so decided to give it a go. I sourced the Big Pack and the small tent from our equipment officer Denise M also bought freeze dried food and booked my National Park permit. Followed the Club checklist, especially thermals for being in the Mountains this time of the year, I was ready to go.

Kevin Blain was leader and he organised to meet at Rathdowney at 9.30am. From a cold windy start Carmel, Sue, Malcolm, Mats, Kevin and I headed towards Mt Barney and Lower Portals car-park. Packs were donned and adjusted, photos taken before heading west along the marked track.



It was here that 'El Presidentey' had a good idea, to leave a perfectly good path to go scrub bashing up a ridge to see the Rocky Creek Gorge. It was worth the effort with great views especially looking towards Mt Maroon. But the downside was that I used up a lot of my energy by the time we were back on track that I found that the winding track up and over many spurs slowed me down considerably.

Nevertheless we reached Mt Barney Creek with a fair amount of water flowing. No rock-hopping over this time, so the boots came off and we waded across. With freezing water the toes had to be counted to see they hadn't dropped off and it sure felt good to get those dry socks back on.

The Lower Portals are just up the creek where a well-earned lunch stop was had. The party then climbed through the cave for some exploration of the creek and having a rock wallaby stop to say hello.

It was decided that as it was now 2pm it would be better to set up camp here with plenty of time to enjoy the ambiance of the bush surrounds, the company and be prepared for a cold night. So tents were erected and beds made in preparation. While enjoying our happy hour with cake and nibbles a bush critter decided to sneak off with Kevin's food packets. They didn't like it as it was returned the next day only chewed and tasted. They did visit at night for a sniff around but we all just made sure we kept warm on an almost full moon shining through the trees.

In the morning we had a leisurely breakfast, packed up the gear, then headed out. Before getting too far though it was shoes off again into the icy water. Mats says there are 7 ridges to go over and I must say I felt them all. It was a nice walk all the same with the sun lighting up the many grass trees making it a very picturesque journey.

On returning there was plenty of time for a coffee and bite to eat at Beaudesert with an early mark home. Thanks everyone for your company and patience while all enjoying a weekend in the great outdoors.

Cheers John K

Thanks go to John for the photos





Important Information

Contact Code: A few reminders for all walkers:

- Please contact walk leaders at least one week before a walk. If you leave it till Thursday or Friday night you may be disappointed to find that the walk has been cancelled, due to apparent lack of interest. Also dates, details etc. can & do change. Leaders give their time to organise walks and need to know if they are committed to lead a walk.
- Arrive at the meeting point 10 minutes before the set time. Our times are departure times and we try to be punctual. Late walkers can be left behind!
- Read the walk description and note the rating. If you are unsure of your abilities, please discuss this with the leader before nominating. Neither you nor other walkers will have a good day if your fitness is not of a suitable standard.
- Do you have a health problem that may affect your performance on a walk? It is important that you inform the leader of this and discuss the matter.
- If you have commitments after a walk please discuss this with the leader before commencing a walk. Leaders cannot guarantee the time of return, due to weather, terrain & the expertise of walkers.

Many thanks to Gladstone & Bundaberg Clubs Newsletters for the basis of this information.

BUSHWALKING CODE OF ETHICS

(Taken from the Guidelines of the Qld Environmental Protection Agency)

Wildlife

- ☺ Getting close to nature is one of the best rewards for your bushwalking efforts. Whilst seeing native animals is a bonus, close encounters with wildlife can be risky.
- ☺ Remember! This is the animal's home! Look after the bush so animals can continue to live here. Look but don't touch!
- ☺ Detour around any snake. Never poke them with a stick.
- ☺ Go spotlighting, but remember that bright lights can damage animals' eyesight. Avoid shining a torch on an animal for too long.
- ☺ For your sake and theirs, don't feed native animals. Human food can harm them, and fed animals have been known to attack people.
- ☺ Keep your food secure from hungry animals. Apart from the mess, you might have cut your walk short if you have no food left!
- ☺ Keep your noise down. You're more likely to see native animals.

