

# Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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

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

P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

## November 2012

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### Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2012 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

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### President's Report



October came and went very quickly and now November heralds the end of the walking season, unless you are fortunate enough to be travelling south to NZ, Tassie or Victoria that is.

Even if the walks are getting thin on the ground there are other activities on offer. If you have not tried abseiling before, on the 11th you have your chance. It is fun and exciting and safe, Ted and the other trainers know the ropes and are very keen to get you dangling from a string.

The biggest event this month though is the Christmas party at Spring Gully outside Canungra. Steve and his helpers have been very busy organising the event for a few months now and I am sure it will be a success. You can bring your own tent or book an on-site tent.

At the Christmas party we will have a planning session for the first half of next year, so have a think about possible walks you would like to do. You do not have to be a leader to come up with suggestions; it is your ideas that are important.

Also, even if it is not in November, please put the 10th anniversary walk on the 9th of December in your calendar. It's hard to imagine that some of us have been wearing out boot rubber for ten whole seasons!

Congratulations to everybody that has chipped in to keep the club going through the years.

Mats

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### Upcoming Activities

Don't forget our Christmas camp at Spring Gully Stays – Canungra. Camping fees are \$15pp/pn or Safari tent \$25pp/pn. BBQ Sat night approx. \$10 pp. More details at the next meeting.

## Activity Reports



**Where:** Mt Castle Through-walk

**When:** 13-14 October 2012

**Leader:** Ted Wassenberg

Four of us set off around 0600 for the long drive to Goomburra Valley and then up to Sylvestor's Lookout carpark. We had stopped at Aratula BP for a wake up coffee. We commenced our walk at 0930 and stopped at the lookout where we could see all the way to Brisbane, Mt Barney and even Edinburgh Castle in NSW. The trail then took us through rainforest up over a sizeable hill and then down to a rock ledge above Laidley Ck falls. Here we had morning tea with impressive views of the razorback, and ridge leading to the south cliffs of Mt Castle. The ticks were prolific here and I brushed about 15 of the little beasts from my gaiters.



We soon moved on and traversed above the cliffs, crossed Laidley Ck above the falls and scrambled down to a rock ledge that forms a veranda along the cliff face. This ledge cuts through the waterfall and is a bit slippery when wet. Water was falling as we crossed and we were soon at the Hole in the Wall below where we had morning tea. The trail now led us over Boar's Head and onto the narrow ridge to Mt castle.

Lunch was on the ridge just before the razorback. A westerly wind was picking up as we crossed the less than 1m wide razorback and it continued well into the night. A sidle around the west side of Mt castle soon saw us to where a short steep slog gave access to the top. We reached camp at about 1500, rigged our tents and admired the views. We settled in with nibblies and favourite beverages before cooking dinner. Eight pm saw us all in our tents to avoid the cold westerly wind.

We were all awake before sunrise, which can be a feature from this elevated campsite and so it proved to be today. Sunrise was spectacular and we took heaps of photos.

As a consequence of this early rise, we also had an early departure, 0700 had us packed and ready to leave. We crossed the ridge back to Laidley Falls and thus

avoided the heat of the day. As we traversed a narrow path below Boar's Head, Rob slipped and sprained his ankle. Out came the tried and trusted Horse bandage and we soon had him walking/limping. We were only half way back and still had to climb the cliffs to get back above Laidley Falls and go over the hill above that to get back to Sylvestor's and the car. On the way back, we came across two parties, one was the Ipswich Bushies on their way to Laidley Falls. Back at the car at 1100 and after a dip in the creek back at Goomburra to refresh, we set off for Aratula for lunch and the drive home.

Thanks Alison, Mats and Rob for a great outing.



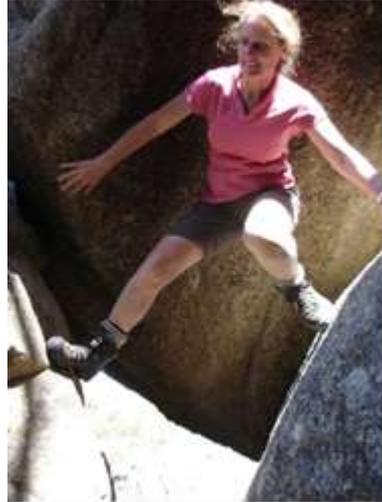


**Where:** Kitchen Cave Girraween

**When:** 6-7th October

**Leader:** David Rae

Girraween is an Aboriginal word which means “place of flowers”. The park is known for its granite landscapes, large angular tors, and precariously balanced boulders. In spring spectacular wildflowers display a splash of colour among the granite boulders.

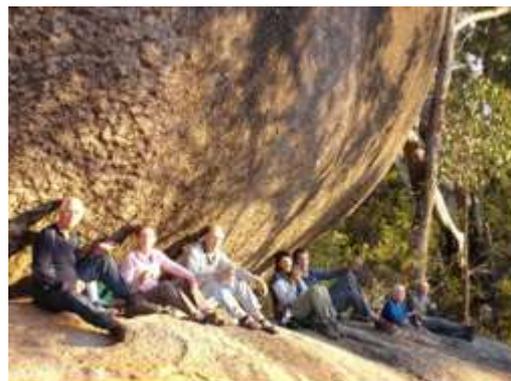


Eight of us headed off on Saturday morning to enjoy this dramatic landscape. Heading north we slowly skirted, roamed, crisscrossed, traversed, contoured and zigzagged our way between the two pyramids, stopping to explore the many nooks and crannies which we encountered on our journey.

Slip Rock



Travelling at a leisurely pace of 500 metres per hour we reached our destination of “Kitchen cave” on the western slopes of slip rock around 2:30. We then spent the next few hours resting and taking in the surrounds of our home for the night.



Our return route was via the south east ridge of Slip Rock where we slipped, stumbled, tripped, fell, skidded and slid our way back to the cars at Castle Rock camp ground

Thanks to all who accompanied me on this journey.

David Rae



**Where:** Mt Nebo To Lake Manchester

**When:** Sunday 21st October

**Leader:** Kerrie & Mike

A very different walking experience to the survey walk done only a few weeks before. No longer would it be a mild temperature spring walk, we were about to commence a walk in top end 30's degree temperatures! 38°C was forecast for the day and realised.

Dave picked us up progressively from 6am and drove us toward our Mt Nebo starting point. We had checked the Met reports before leaving and were aware that there were organised burn offs, north and south of Brisbane and there was a high fire risk predicted in Brisbane area. As we climbed up towards Mt Nebo, we observed considerable smoke on the coastal side of the range but the west side where we would be walking was clear. We decided that it was safe to walk. Kerrie led the way and Narelle again agreed to be our "Tail End Charlie".

We left our starting point at the Forestry Road bus stop, walking along the bitumen for a few hundred metres and then we entered the National Park track running parallel to Forestry Road. After 40 minutes we stopped to regroup. Marnie was walking very slowly and was clearly unwell. She said she had not been well yesterday. The leaders decided that she should not proceed with the walk and Wayne volunteered to escort her back to the start of the walk. The bus was recalled and took Marnie and Wayne to Lake Manchester.

We continued on our way walking along Light Line Road, following the ridge with landscape views of the surrounding bush visible on and off on both sides of the track. The day was hot and most of us were becoming affected by the heat to some degree. At least we had reasonable cover as we walked along the ridge with the high eucalypts on either side. We did come across an old Morris car lying in the bush miles from a trafficable road. We wondered how it got there.

As we walked down the steep grade towards Lake Manchester Road, the trees became smaller, sparser and less lush, losing our shade and allowing the sun to reach us directly. We turned left into Lake Manchester Road and soon came across a running stream, the only one flowing on the track right now. Most of us bathed ourselves as much as we could. Some took off their shirts and caps and drenched both for better cooling. Fortunately our lunch stop was at a camping area just 100 mtrs along from the creek. We all crowded under the shade of a large tree and enjoyed a well-earned lunch break.

Following the track around the lake in the afternoon sun became quite difficult for some of us, and the pace was slowing considerably. After communication by phone between Mike and Wayne, it was agreed to take a shorter direct route back to the Kholo Road where the bus was able to come and meet us. From here Dave transported our weary group to the Brisbane River where we parked the bus and enjoyed Kerrie's cakes with tea, coffee, and for some of us, lots and lots of cold water. We wearily got back on the bus for a quiet trip home.

Thanks to Narelle for again being a very dedicated and busy "Tail End Charlie", to Wayne for voluntarily giving up his walk to escort Marnie back, for Dave our driver for his co-operation and flexibility, and to all our walkers for their perseverance and good spirits in very humid and hot conditions. Well Done Everyone!

Kerrie and Mike



**Where:** Obi Obi Tributary

**Where:** 20th October.

**Leaders:** Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers

At the Pilgrimage we got invited by the Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers to come up to their home turf and do a creek walk. The choice fell on Obi Obi Creek tributary and the wheels were set in motion.

I had to limit the numbers as the walk includes a rather long car shuffle, so I set the maximum to six walkers. There was however such jostling for a place on the walk that when the dust had settled we ended up being eight. So three carloads of Redlanders were up at the crack of dawn for the long drive to Witta, then on to Kondalilla Falls car park for the start of the walk.



The first hour of the walk was downhill to Skene Creek, then along the Sunshine Coast Great Walk track to a large rock slab sticking out into Obi

Obi Creek. Here we left the track and started bush bashing up the creek, crossing it and soon we were at the mouth of the tributary where we would spend the remainder of the walk.

The creek started off innocuously enough with an easy rock hop in the shade of the rainforest, but it did not take long for us to reach the first waterfall, the first of many as it was. We climbed, scrambled and rock hopped past a fantastic succession of falls, massive boulders and rock slabs. Many of the slabs had large circular holes in them, formed by spinning rocks slowly grinding a hole over millennia. We were all “Oohing and Aahing” the whole day as one spectacular view replaced another.

As the day wore on it got gradually hotter and hotter and we kept dipping our heads in the water to keep cool. All too soon it was over, after a lunch stop at a most impressive waterfall we entered the rainforest and followed a track across private land up to the cars. The cold beer at the Maleny pub was very welcome indeed!

A huge thank you must go to Bernhard and Ross for introducing us to this great walk.

Redland walkers: Alison, Betty, Hilary, Tracy, Marika, Russel, Trevor and Mats.



**Where:** Rat-a-Tat  
**When:** 28-29 October '12  
**Leader:** Mats

### Chicken Run

Once upon a time there were eight strong, fit energetic bushwalkers that had decided upon doing a walk crossing Lost World, along came one hot Sunday and four of them chickened out. Two of the chickens decided to invite people to a walk to Rat a Tat but such was the lacklustre interest, that despite intensive cajoling and some outright lying no one else was interested.

So this now becomes a tale of two fogies in the forest. The promised heatwave stayed away as well.

For the first hour of the walk we kept being overtaken by groups of gradually less chirpy looking mountain runners. It was the Lamington Classic, they run from O'Reillys to Binna Burra and then back the next day. The fastest time is around 90 minutes one way. After we turned off the border track things quietened down for a while but at Echo Point we got mobbed by a cheerful bunch from the Sunshine Coast Bushwalkers. Amongst them was Bernhard who had been on the Obi Obi walk with us the week before and quite a few familiar faces from the Pilgrimage.

The track from Echo Point was in quite good condition and well-marked but that did not stop the navigator from leading us three quarters of the way up Mt. Durigan before we realised the mistake and turned back down. At the campsite we idled away the hours speculating about how far the Lost World walkers had gone etc. Only to be interrupted by a couple of blokes that were looking for water, a third one waiting up on the border track as he was too tired. They told us that they were on their way to the Stinson wreck! As it now was a quarter to four in the afternoon and already had started to get gloomy down in the rainforest, we hinted that maybe Throakban would be a better choice, but they were adamant that they would try. I wonder how far they'd got.

The Sunday stayed cool, if not cold and we hurried along the tracks to keep warm, taking the Albert River (Long) track back. The upper stretches of this track is nothing short of fabulous, I have probably walked it ten times, but it's beauty still impresses me. After numerous zig zags, the last ten erroneously guessed to be the last, we hit the border track for that long slog back to O'Reillys.

Walkers: Malcolm & Mats



## **Important Information**

### Guidelines for Club ethics

- When nominating for a walk, members and visitors have an obligation to write legibly on the nomination form.
- Please contact walk leaders at least early in the 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. The leader may assign you to a car for the trip.
- 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.
- The leader of a walk has the final say on whether a person can come on a walk. Members and newcomers should be aware of this and accept it.
- 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.
- Arrive at the agreed meeting point before the set time. We try to be punctual. Late walkers can be left behind!
- It is a normal practise to share the costs of transport to and from a walk. This may vary between car owners and may be as simple as sharing the cost of the fuel among the passengers or a fixed amount for example: (10-20kms \$5/person, 20-50kms \$8/person, 50-100kms \$10/person 100-200kms \$15/person, 200-250kms \$20/person, 250-300kms \$25/person ) Discuss this with your driver.
- Please have a change of clothes and shoes available in the car for the return journey as a courtesy to your companions and the car owner.

#### DAY WALK CHECKLIST:

Please ensure you have the following items so you are prepared for any eventuality whilst on a day walk.

#### ABSOLUTE ESSENTIALS:

- Boots (must be fully enclosed – no sandals. Boots are preferable although joggers are suitable for most social walks).
- Gaiters or long pants (unless otherwise specified).
- Daypack of sufficient capacity to carry all your needs.
- Water – Minimum of 2 litres – (bladder or two separate containers).
- Torch/headlamp with spare batteries. (Lithium batteries are lighter and last longer than alkaline batteries).
- Raincoat or Poncho.
- First-aid kit
- Whistle
- Lunch and snacks.

#### RECOMMENDED:

- Light fleece or Thermal top.
- Pack liner and pack cover. (protects pack contents in case of rain)
- Sunscreen and insect repellent.
- Rubbish bag (we take out what we take in; also for wet muddy gear).
- Map and compass (ideally the leader is not the only one with these items).
- Toilet paper and trowel.
- Spare change of clothes in a bag to be left in the car for the return journey – be considerate of fellow passengers and those who provide the transport.

#### OPTIONAL ITEMS:

- Camera or binoculars.
- Walking poles.
- Gardening gloves or similar for off track walks.

#### IMPORTANT:

1. Trip leaders can choose to leave you behind if you are not properly equipped.
2. Keep to walks within the bounds of the walk grading as shown on the walk calendar.