



Ramble On

Newsletter of Redland Bushwalkers Incorporated

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P.O. Box 101 Cleveland 4163

September 2012

Next Club Meeting

Wednesday 12th September, 2012 7:00pm for 7:30pm start

President's Report

Spring is in the air, I think I have put the beanie and scarf into the pack for the last time this season.

August went in a flash with outings every weekend, it is a great time for Bushwalking isn't it? You better get as many walks done as possible before it gets too warm, at least if you suffer from the heat as much as yours truly.

Are you looking forward to September, the incredible variety of activities makes you really spoilt for choice. The most important of these activities is of course the Pilgrimage, over 100 people have signed up so it is going to be HUGE. I don't think that anyone will be bored, with 20 walks on the program and heaps of activities at the showground go to the web site and check it out!

So put on your sun hat and your dancing shoes and come bushwalking, or try putting on your party hat and your hiking boots and come bush dancing, or ... you know what I mean.

See you on the track.

Mats



Upcoming Activities

The Photo Competition is closing soon!!

It's time to uncover those great photos and videos that you've been hiding all year and prepare them for entry into the Photo Competition before the closing date of the club meeting 10th October!!

The Photo Comp committee is proud to announce the following exciting prizes...

1. Judges Prize for Best Photo in the Competition as awarded by the judges - a six week Beginners Photographic Course valued at \$250 by VidPicPro, donated by Julie Geldard.
2. Member's Choice for Best Photo in the Competition as voted by club members - an advanced photographic workshop by VidPicPro, donated by Julie Geldard.
3. Category Winners will each receive a Harvey Norman gift voucher for \$25, donated by Redland Bushwalkers Club
4. Runners Up in each category will each receive a certificate of congratulations.

We are also pleased to announce the following judges for our competition...

Julie Geldard AAPS AFIAP, Julie is a lover of nature, a photographer and videographer and passionate about capturing life's magic with still photography and video. Julie has been awarded AAPS and AFAIP by the Australian Photographic Society for National and International awards.

Barry Ingham, Film maker and world leading nature artist and Ann Ingham, 'A' grade photographer from Mt Gravatt Photographic club. Ann and Barry are both members of NPQ and have both had numerous exhibitions.

Please note also that the size of photos to be submitted is to be 150mm x 100mm (6"x4") NOT 150mm x 150mm as erroneously reported on the website and some forms. They may be either 'portrait' or 'landscape' orientation. We have found from experience that double-sided sticky-tape is ideal for attaching photos to backing cards... sometimes craft glue just doesn't stick properly.

Note also that all photos and videos taken at the Pilgrimage are eligible for entry... we can't wait to see them and are anticipating some great 'After Dark' photos!!

Entry packs (\$1) shall be available at the September club meeting, and at any other time from -

Leah Ph: 0435 048 815 email lstephens@tpg.com.au

Mike Ph: 0418 189 904 email sew@baystitch.com.au

Wayne Ph: 0402 734 900 email wayne.porter@brisbane.qld.gov.au



Activity Reports



Where: Mount Barney via Logans Ridge

When: Saturday 25th August

Leader: David Rae

Six of us set off from Yellow Pinch reserve at 7:45 am on a fine mild morning. The walk to the rock face of Mt Barney proper was quiet easy as it follows a well-defined ridge line. From here the climb becomes a lot more difficult as it requires good rock scrambling skills and endurance in inching your way ever higher. The views from the ridge are one of the best you will ever see from Mt Barney as there is very little vegetation on this exposed ridge line.

The summit of East peak was reached at 12:45 pm. It is interesting to note, in 1828 Patrick Logan took 5 hours to make the first ascent by the same ridge. As it was Betty's 21'st birthday we celebrated with marshmallow cakes and a happy birthday chorus sung by the 20 strong crowd also on top.

The descent was via North Peak Saddle and Rocky Creek. About a third of the way down a number of slippery rock slabs had to be negotiated with the aid of a rope. Even with a rope there were a couple of members who kissed the ground unexpectedly.

Our arrival back at the car at 5:45 was a little later than anticipated and so the usual coffee at MacDonald's had to be cancelled.

David Rae



Where: Sundown NP Throughwalk

When: 10-13 Aug 2012

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

Friday night, with a dinner stop at the Caltex at Warwick, it had taken us 5 h to drive from the Redlands to Broadwater campsite on the SW side of Sundown NP. There were not as many Kangaroos on the road as the last time we visited, but once inside the park there were plenty. Mats and Marika had departed several hours before us and were fast asleep when we arrived at 2300h. We quickly set up tents and went to bed.



Saturday morning was cold, with the dew frozen onto our tents. We eagerly awaited the sun, which did not reach the tents until ~ 0800h, by which time we had had our breakfast and were keen to get moving. First we had to cross the Severn R, the only crossing for the day. This we all managed without getting wet feet, though we were prepared to remove boots if it was necessary in order to keep feet dry for the rest of the day. The walk up McAllisters Ck was fabulous, lovely gorges of red rock with green fringing vegetation and many rock pools.



We soon arrived at the first major falls, which we skirted on the south side and not long after had to climb around twin falls, the major obstacle of the walk. This climb is somewhat exposed and on loose rock and scree. We were quickly past it and stopped for lunch at the top of the falls, where we also collected water sufficient for dinner and breakfast. After leaving the falls and continuing up the creek, we came across a small pool of water in which we found a submerged juvenile goanna. We thought it drowned, but a light prod with my pole sent it diving deeper under a log. Later that afternoon we arrived at a major junction in the creek. We took the left branch and were confronted by another 20m waterfall. This was readily avoided by scrambling

up the RHS bypassing it and then dropping back into the creek. Mats and Marika had camped below these falls on a previous trip. This time we continued up the creek until about 1600h when we found a nice flat grassy bank in the deep steeply banked creek and made camp.

After cleaning up, we sat down for nibbles of salmon and cheese dips washed down with our own particular beverage. Just as we were about to have dinner it started to rain and we all retreated into our tents. Interestingly, no one emerged to have dinner despite the rain ceasing about an hour after it started. The previous late night and the days walk and nibbles were sufficient to have us all sleeping early.

Sunday morning, again we awoke to find the dew frozen to our tents. We had breakfast and then set to wiping the dew and ice from our tents so we could pack them away. We had 2.5 km to go to reach the top of Mt Donaldson but this took us awhile. The creek twisted and turned and there were numerous obstacles and small waterfalls to negotiate. We had an extended morning tea on the summit with great views of the plains to the west and the park to the north. We pulled out our wet tents and lay them out in the sun to dry. The top of the mountain is a rubble-field of rocks as are most of the ridges, with low shrubs, but the view from the top is fabulous.



After packing away our dried tents, we began the long descent to the Severn R. The first stage was down a ridge to the west to a junction of two creeks. From here the going was much easier and more pleasant. We continued to follow this creek to where it ran adjacent to a massive red rock wall and over a cliff - a perfect place to have lunch. With lunch completed, we sidled across the top of the falls and onto the second stage of the descent that led all the way to the river.



This part was long and tedious. A bit like walking on roller balls on dusty dirt with lots of what look like dying trees around us. The river was a relief and had running water. I had planned to camp along the river for the night, but as we were only about 4 km from camp and it was only 1400h, a group decision was made to return to the Broadwater campsite.

There we would have our larger tents and other facilities. The going was a bit easier now as we were following old vehicle tracks. On the way back to camp, a solitary dark cloud with a sense of humour suddenly dumped large amounts of rain on us. It moved at the same pace and in the same direction as us, and was the only cloud in

the otherwise blue sky. We were a little smarter than the cloud and stopped walking so that it soon passed ahead of us.

Back at camp, we had a good wash, set up our larger tents and settled down around the fire with nibbles and drinks. Again, as we were about to have dinner it began to rain. This time we moved into the shelter hut and had our dinner. A little later the rain stopped and we returned to our fire. We watched it burn out and then settled down for the night.

Monday morning, we packed up after breakfast and were about to set off, but Mats could not start his car - the battery did not like the cold nights, and needed a boost from my car battery to get it going. We stopped at Stanthorpe for a coffee and egg and bacon roll (for some of us) and then set off for home. Thanks Judy, Marika and Mats for a great adventure.

Thanks Ted for the photos



Where: Pages Pinnacle Report

When: 5 August 2012

Leader: Ted Wassenberg

This walk was also intended as a survey for the upcoming Pilgrimage, so we met at Canungra at 0800h for a 35 min drive into the Numinbah valley and then up the Springbrook road. We set off for our walk at 0915h.

Pages Pinnacle is a rocky Razorback off a ridge in the Numinbah Valley overlooking the Hinze dam. Access is gained from the Springbrook road. Seven of us descended the old logging road down to where it crossed a creek, which much to my surprise was now several hundred metres wide compared with a trickle last year. A new dirt road had been made that skirted around this inundation and then linked up with the alternate road up a long ridge to a saddle where it cuts in with the original road. The Hinze dam wall was raised 15m and completed last year, hence the raised water levels. We walked around this new road and then did a short bush bash to pick up the originally intended road that skirts below the cliffs of the Pinnacle on the way up. We followed this road up to the saddle where we had morning tea.



From the saddle, we took a faint track to the razorback. The razorback is long and narrow and has some very exposed sections sloping to the east. Everyone managed to cross this section without much trepidation. Once across the razorback, we scrambled down a small cliff 4-5m where I had fixed a rope, then walked up to the summit with great views on the way of the Nerang Valley, Hinze Dam, Numinbah Valley, Egg Rock, Ships Stern, Lamington Plateau and the coast. Low dense trees obscured views from the summit, so we retreated to a spot where we could have lunch with a view.



After lunch we returned much the same way, taking the alternate road down to connect with the new road. We arrived back at the cars shortly after 1330.

After signing off, we set off to visit the Hinze dam wall. Along the way back, I stopped to take a couple of photos of the Pinnacle from the road. Somewhere along the way, we had our wires crossed and the second car went to one boat ramp and my car arrived at the dam wall. We waited for a while before phoning the other car to discover they were already on the freeway home. As there was a nice café at the information centre, we stopped for coffees and admired the view from the dam wall, before finally heading home. Everyone commented about how nice it was to do a different walk that they all enjoyed.



Thanks Ted for the photos



Where: Beginner abseil training, Kangaroo Pt cliffs

When: 1 Sept 2012

Everybody had turned up at the cliffs between 7-7:30 am. It was a cool morning with a light SW wind to chill us. Some were shivering, but whether that was due to the cold or to expectations was not certain. After introductions and other formalities we got down to business – explanations of what abseiling was all about. What ropes to use and how to fit harnesses – and what descenders to use. While all that was going on Hilary and Betty were setting-up the third of our abseil stations. As budding instructors, they then fitted our four students into their harnesses allowing me to cross check the abseil and safety ropes.

After some dummy runs with the harnesses on a rope suspended from a tree, our students were ready to tackle the 9-10 m drop. Wow this is really high was the comment from Karen. Rob our newest probationary member had abseiled as a scout so was fairly comfortable on his first attempt. Caroline decided to sit down on the cliff face, but as this was uncomfortable stood up again and descended safely. Sandy also bravely descended under the guidance of Hilary. With Betty and Hilary in charge of two of the stations, David was able to use the third station to complete his assessment by abseiling past a knot and climbing back up the rope with the use of prussick slings.

Having completed three abseils each with a top-rope belay, it was time to teach the use of an autoblock brake. So back to the tree and more lessons from Betty and Hilary on how to apply its use. This autoblock acts as a failsafe should they lose control of the descent. Once everyone was comfortable with using it we went back to the abseil ropes. While still belayed with a top rope, they all descended several more times each using this new method. Finally, Karen, Caroline, Sandy and Rob made the descent under their own control. By this time, I think they had absorbed enough and although mentally tired, they were elated, as were our two novice instructors. After a quick session on knots, how to coil ropes and packing up all the gear we were finished at lunch time. ‘When is the next training day?’ was the request as we all departed.



Where: Mt. Jerusalem National Park N.S.W.

When: 19th Aug 2012

Leader: Kevin Blain

This national park covers a large area extending from Uki to Mullumbimby in N.S.W. A day walk was undertaken from Smiths Creek near Uki. Thirteen people attended this walk, Heather, Helen, Laurel, Rob, Ray, Richard, Hilary, and myself together with prospective members Anne & Evan, Chris, & Greg, and Nola.

After meeting at Murwillumbah we travelled to Smiths Creek Road to the start of the walk. The group walked along the old logging road, which was an easy grade but rose progressively some 350 metres to Mt Chowan. The last half kilometre was off track with broken rock and heavy vegetation. Unfortunately the top of Mt. Chowan was overgrown with restricted views. However, good views of Mt Warning and the Border Ranges were seen at various stages along the road.

During the return walk a small diversion was undertaken along another logging road. This road followed a ridge which provided views to Stokers Siding and down into Burringbar Valley.

The area contained a large variety of trees. Various discussions took place to identify some of the trees and the usefulness of these trees. A variety of birds were also identified and observed.

During the walk we came across motorbike riders. They claimed to be lost and were following the road to get back to the private property, from where they started. It did seem odd that they managed to divert into adjacent bike tracks after leaving us.

The group returned to our starting point about 2.00pm after walking some 12 kilometres. We then adjourned to Murwillumbah for an enjoyable coffee break.



Where: Mt. Cotton Blue Moon Night Walk

When: 31st Aug 2012

Leader: Kevin Blain

There's a Blue Moon shining over Redlands,
Mt. cotton will be lit up so bright,
As we make our way up that old mountain,
We will be able to find our way tonight.

Twelve intrepid walkers braved this full moon walk on Friday night, Wayne, Ted, Micheal, Marnie, Judy, Leah, Fiona and myself along with prospective members Tracy, Glenda, Heather and Paul. The walk commenced at 6.00pm from the corner of West Mt. Cotton and Schoeck Roads. A spectacular sunset was viewed just prior to commencing the walk. This was a great omen as the day had been heavily overcast. The words above set the scene as the clouds cleared and Mt. Cotton was bathed in Blue Moon light.

The party proceeded along various tracks to the top of Mt. Cotton. The walk up to the top included the steep "Mongrel" section which was testing in the night light. The walk to the top was achieved without major incident except for a bit of heavy breathing.

Everyone took part in the spirit of the Blue Moon walk by wearing something blue. This was further enhanced at the top of Mt. Cotton when the supper goodies were produced. A variety of blue food appeared, including, blue yoghurt, blueberries, blue muffins, blue icing, blue vein cheese and some wine that was nearly blue. A great supper was undertaken and the Blue Moon was toasted shining brightly in the crystal clear sky.

Unfortunately all good parties have to end and we had to commence the return trip. The return trip followed an easier route downhill returning to West Mt. Cotton road at the green box then along the road for 700metres back to the vehicles. We arrived back at the vehicles at 9.15pm after a night time walk of 7 ½ kilometres.

During the walk several boots received some minor breakdowns and the soles required retreads. Ted came to the rescue with a trusty roll of duct tape to bandage the soles onto boots. All boots survived the walk back to the vehicles.

Thanks to all who participated in the walk.



Something of Interest

CAPE YORK TRIP 2012

Crocodile infested creek and river crossings, miles of bone jarring corrugations interspersed with deep potholes full of blinding bulldust, that is what some would have you believe awaits travellers on the trip to “the top”.

Well it is not like that (but I got your attention).

We left our caravan at Laura, the end of the bitumen, and loaded the car with camping gear and headed north on the Peninsula Development Road. This is, for the most part, a fairly well maintained, reasonable gravel road. Much of it is smoother than some of the state’s sealed highways. Yes, there are some rough patches and dust is a constant companion. Overtaking is impossible because of the lack of visibility, and it is advisable to drive with headlights on so others can see you.

For the more adventurous, there is a more testing track for part of the way. This is an un-maintained rougher track with creek crossings. It follows the path of the old telegraph line. As this route increases the risk of damage to the vehicle, we stayed on the “tourist route”.

Some of the scenery along the way is spectacular, and the vegetation is ever changing. There are waterfalls to visit and we swam in their pools. There are regular camp grounds at old telegraph stations and on cattle properties, with facilities, where we camped at reasonable cost. The campgrounds at Bamaga and Weipa, give the opportunity to see sunset over the ocean – unusual in Queensland.

Arrival at the tip of the cape – about 35km from Bamaga and a 500mtr walk from the car park gives a feeling of achievement. This is as far North as you can go on the Australian continent. There was a queue waiting to have a picture taken at the sign at the top.

Oh – crocodiles. We did not see one during the entire trip, though we were assured they are about, and that we should stay out of the water. The only “nasties” we saw were three snakes on the road, one of which I saw too late to avoid running over it. There was also a (harmless) green tree snake in the shower at one camp ground - some of the ladies sounded less than impressed.

We spent two weeks travelling and covered almost 2000km of gravel road. Our only mishap was to put a stick through a new tyre.

After two weeks of packing and unpacking the car each day and sleeping in tents, it was nice to get back to the comfort of our caravan. Our journey continues.....

Sue and Dudley Reid





Important Information

BUSHWALKING CODE OF ETHICS

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

Fires

- ☺ Fires are not permitted in National Parks and fire restrictions may apply in other areas or seasons. ALWAYS check first.
- ☺ Light fires in cleared areas, away from vegetation and tents.
- ☺ Keep your fire small, preferably using an existing fireplace.
- ☺ Don't put rocks around the fire. Rocks conduct heat and damage the surrounding vegetation.
- ☺ Collect timber only where permitted. Use only dead, fallen timber.
- ☺ Always put the fire out. Douse with water, not earth. Embers can smoulder for days.
- ☺ NEVER light fires during high bushfire danger periods or in places where the fire might spread.

